

Brother of Lacson's whistle-blower belies charges

Story on PAGE A16

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1,000 villagers feared killed in Liberia massacre WORLD/A11
- Bank robbers hit Makati METRO/A17
- Elders urge peace zone in entire Mt. Province ACROSS/A13

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Tuesday, August 26, 2003 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 259 P15

Iglesia ni Cristo sues PDI for libel

THE IGLESIA ni Cristo yesterday filed a libel complaint against the INQUIRER in connection with its Aug. 23 banner story that cited an intelligence document indicating that the religious sect was hiding Sen. Gringo Honasan in an INC compound in Culiati, Quezon City. Inq7.net reporter Fe Zamora, who wrote the article, INQUIRER publisher Is-

IGLESIA/A6

website: www.inq7.net

Ping's star witness is Mike's messenger

'I just want the Mahusay name to be clean'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT STARTED with a lost cell phone and led to an opposition senator's exposé on the Jose Pidal accounts.

Jose Miguel Arroyo's accusation that he stole not only the phone but also money prompted Eugenio Mahusay Jr. to spill the beans on the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mahusay is the main witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against Arroyo whom the opposition senator accused of hoarding at least P200 million in unspent campaign contributions to Ms Macapagal when she ran for vice president in 1998.

Mahusay said yesterday that he decided to leave his job as messenger of Arroyo, his wedding sponsor, because he couldn't take the accusations against him.

"I want to prove to my child that I am not a thief and that I didn't do it," he said, in explaining why he came out to make

the accusations against Arroyo. "To my siblings listening I hope you will understand. I just want the Mahusay name to be clean."

At a brief news conference, Mahusay said Arroyo was Jose Pidal.

"First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo would sign the check under the name of Jose Pidal in my presence. And after he signs the name of Jose Pidal, he would ask me to withdraw 'pay to cash' checks from Union Bank in front of the LTA building on Perea Street in Legazpi Village, Makati City," he said.

Mahusay claimed that he would withdraw or deposit money ranging from P500,000 to P5 million for Arroyo.

In a privileged speech on Aug. 18, Lacson alleged that one of Arroyo's secret bank accounts was under the name of Jose Pidal. Lacson said yesterday that another witness was "one inch away from (Mr. Arroyo)" when the latter signed the bank documents of Jose Pidal.

PING'S/A16



EUGENIO Mahusay spills beans on "ninong."



JOSE Miguel Arroyo stands as sponsor on Sept. 14, 1997 at the wedding of Eugenio Mahusay Jr., who later became his messenger and, until recently, his accuser.

Supreme Court dares Lacson to identify 2 'erring' justices

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday dared Sen. Panfilo Lacson to name the two justices who allegedly committed questionable acts with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The tribunal said Lacson should substantiate his allegations or the high court would just consider them part of efforts to ruin its reputation.

"Who are these justices? He is not saying anything. I just read it in the newspapers," Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said.

In his privileged speech last week, Lacson said two Supreme Court justices were among the frequent callers of the First Gentleman in his office at the LTA Building on Perea Street in Makati City, which the senator described as "the place where criminal minds are given unlimited funds and access to government resources for illegal purposes were manufactured."

"There is no law preventing SC justices from going to any place," Khan said. "It is unfair to accuse someone just because he was seen in a certain place."

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. earlier said "sinister forces" were out to destroy the tribunal.

"They can all be lumped with that—a concerted effort to denigrate the Supreme Court for whatever end we cannot see," Khan said.

The Senate blue ribbon committee,

SUPREME/A16



Lifestyle check? The shoes could make a difference

By Christian V. Esguerra

TO really know a man, walk in his shoes.

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. welcomes government lifestyle auditors to his "bargain shop" Florshims as soon as he can glue one of them back on.

At a Sunday wedding in Naga City three weeks ago, Ebdane marched down the aisle of the

LIFESTYLE/A7

'No untouchables in anticorruption fight'

By Juliet Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Armand Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT'S controversial lifestyle check will continue in earnest, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared yesterday, stressing that there are no untouchables in the fight against corruption.

"I am confident no member of my Cabinet will resist a lifestyle check as this is necessary to affirm the determination of the executive branch to cleanse the ranks. We have no untouchables in the

high echelons of executive authority and responsibility," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, whose office runs Malacañang's Transparency Group, said the lifestyle check would continue despite numerous death threats received by members of the group.

The group's head, 29-year-old lawyer Nick Conti, said last week he had received death threats by text messages and phone calls but said these would not deter him from doing his job.

Meanwhile, a ranking official of the Office of the Ombudsman said the filing of graft charges against officials who failed the ongoing lifestyle check was already bearing fruit.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER that graft investigators were now starting to receive tips and information about officials living beyond their means.

Those volunteering information include people who allegedly handed money to corrupt government officials,

NO UNTOUCHABLES/A7

Expert says RP can eradicate corruption

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

IT can be done.

A Hong Kong anticorruption expert yesterday expressed confidence that the Philippines could rid its government bureaucracy of deeply ingrained corruption.

The answer, said Tony Man-Wai Kwok after meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, lies in strong political support.

"If one has to fight corruption in a

country, you have to get top political support. My meeting with the President clearly demonstrated her support for this important and worthy cause," Kwok told reporters in Malacañang.

"She was very responsive and she asked me to come back more often."

Kwok was accompanied by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who had invited the former deputy commissioner and head of operations of Hong Kong's

famous Independent Commission Against Corruption (Icac) to the country.

Kwok said Hong Kong successfully shed its image as a corrupt base for business in the 1960s to become one of the least corrupt places in the world.

"Corruption was a way of life for Hong Kong. You need to pay (a) bribe if you want to do business and to get government service. Now, you don't have to be-

EXPERT/A7

GMA tells Gringo: End child's play

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reminded Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who has gone into hiding after being accused of masterminding a failed coup attempt against her, that he had a job to do other than play "infantile games."

"He has been elected by his supporters for greater responsibilities other than to play hide and seek. The work on his desk is piling up," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal told Honasan that he was being awaited at the Senate, to attend to his job, and answer charges that he was involved in the July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

"His claim to innocence will not be helped by infantile games and excuses," the President said.

Honasan had become "inaccessible" since coup charges were filed against him with the Department of Justice. He has until tomorrow to file his counteraffidavit.

GMA/A6

Peso falls anew, nears all-time low of 55.75

THE PESO, weighed down by persistent political and security concerns, further slid to 55.420 to the dollar yesterday, perilously close to its all-time low of 55.750 in January 2001 when political turmoil led to ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

As the peso fell for the fourth straight session at the Philippine Dealing System, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was prepared to sell dollars in the open market.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco blamed seasonal as well as "noneconomic" factors for the peso's slide to new 31-month lows.

"We will essentially let market forces determine the exchange rate, but the central bank can pro-

vide dollar liquidity if necessary," Tetangco told reporters.

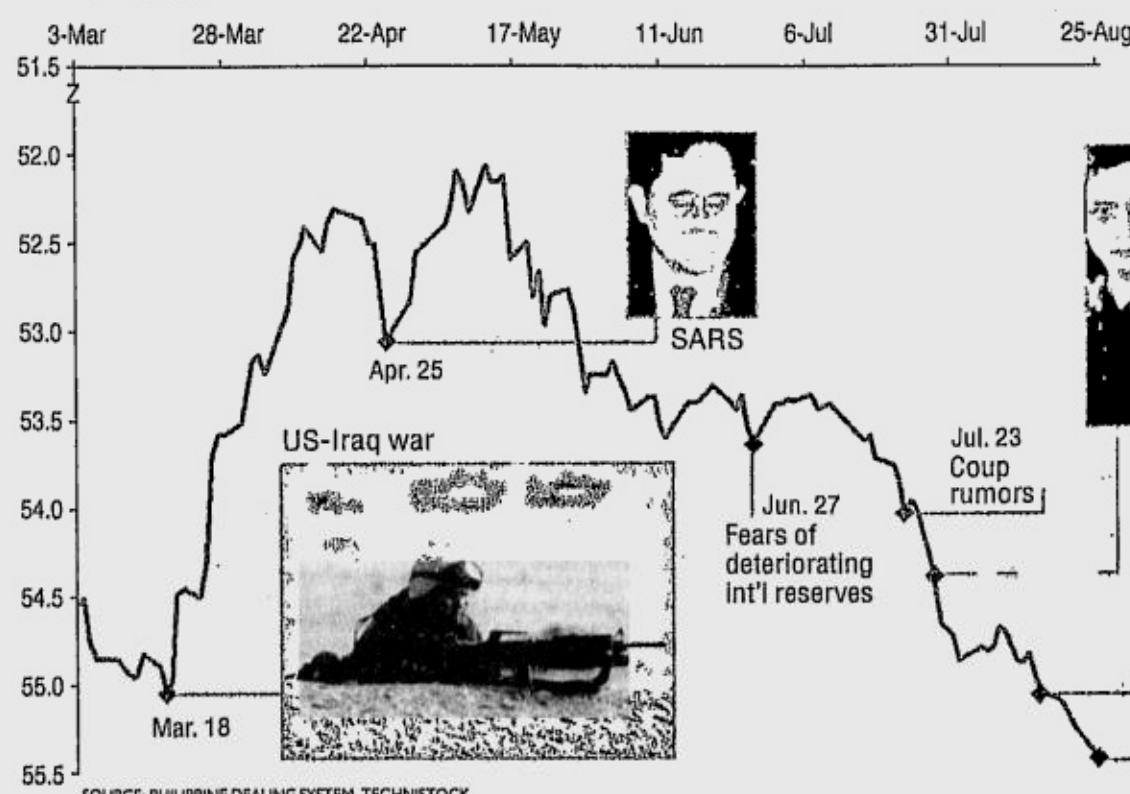
The peso traded between 55.270 and 55.470 to the greenback on Monday, down from 55.265 on Thursday. Volume, however, declined to \$113 million from \$122 million on Thursday.

"On the economic side, demand for dollars is normally higher during the third quarter due to imports and relatively low level of inflows from overseas Filipino workers," Tetangco said.

He said the dollar had also been generally strong amid expectations of an improvement of the US economy.

There are also "noneconomic" factors that are "not helping the

PESO'S STEEP DECLINE



PESO/A6

PDI RESEARCH



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with rain-showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/26/03

Second FRONT PAGE

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Cagayan de Oro Cloudy with Rains
Davao Cloudy with Rains

GMA chances in '04 boosted

De Castro still on top, Roco is 3rd, Lacson 4th

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's chances of victory in 2004, assuming she decides to run, have considerably improved in the aftermath of the July 27 failed coup.

According to Pulse Asia's "Ulat ng Bayan" poll, the President jumped from fifth to second place in a survey asking voters for their presidential and vice-presidential candidate preferences if elections were to be held today.

The President also registered a significant improvement in her performance and trust ratings which Pulse Asia attributed to the swift and peaceful resolution of the July 27 rebellion.

The poll was conducted nationwide from July 25 to Aug. 6, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3. Pulse Asia said it undertook the survey on its own.

Ms Macapagal obtained an overall approval rating of 51 percent, up by a significant 6 percentage points from her 45 percent rating in a previous survey conducted from March 29 to April 12.

Disapproval of her performance also declined by the same margin during the period.

The President got a 21 percent voter support, a significant jump from the 9 percent she got in the previous survey.

But the survey also showed Sen. Noli de Castro, the leading prospective candidate, gaining even more support over the four-month period between the two surveys.

The television broadcaster again emerged as the top choice with 26 percent voter support, against the 21 percent he obtained in April.

Former education secretary Raul Roco fell from second to third place, with 16 percent voter support, against 18 percent in April.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson also fell from third to fourth place, with 11 percent voter support from his previous 12 percent.

Movie star Fernando Poe Jr., who previously ranked fourth with 12 percent, only managed 9 percent this time, landing in fifth place.

Among the five, only Roco and Lacson have declared that they will run in 2004.

Ms Macapagal announced last December that she had decided not to seek a full term in 2004 but her allies in the ruling party have urged her to run.

De Castro and Poe have yet to make their

decision.

Pulse Asia asked 1,200 adult respondents nationwide to choose from 11 possible presidential candidates and 16 possible candidates for vice president.

The other prospective candidates got 4 percent or less voter support: Sen. Juan Flavio, 4 percent; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., 3 percent; Eduardo Cojuangco, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., 2 percent; and Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon, 1 percent.

Three percent of the respondents were either undecided or refused to answer.

In the vice presidential candidate preferences, De Castro again took the lead with a commanding 29 percent. The runner up, Sen. Loren Legarda, got 12 percent.

Flavier was in third place with 8 percent, followed by Sen. Franklin Drilon with 7 percent. Lacson and Poe tied at fifth place with 6 percent.

The other possible vice-presidential candidates and their rankings were: Sen. Edgardo Angara, 5 percent; Honasan and former senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 4 percent; Senators Robert Barbers, Rodolfo Biazon, Serge Osmeña and Pimentel, 3 percent; MM-DA chair Bayani Fernando, 2 percent; Gordon and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 1 percent.

Two percent were undecided or refused to answer.

Among the 17 possible candidate tandems included in the survey, those of Roco-De Castro, De Castro-Legarda and Macapagal-De Castro emerged as the top choices.

The Roco-De Castro tandem got 12 percent support, while that of De Castro-Legarda and Macapagal-De Castro got 9 percent each.

Other possible tandems that the respondents were asked to vote on were that of Roco-Legarda, Lacson-De Castro and Poe-Honasan, each of which got 8 percent support.

The Macapagal-Roco and Legarda-De Castro tandems got 6 percent, while that of Lacson-Legarda got 5 percent.



PRESIDENT Macapagal returns the salute of Medal of Valor awardee Lt. Col. Ariel Querubin, who was among several living heroes given honors at Malacañang's Heroes Hall.

EDWIN BACASAS

Soldiers get housing, other perks

IN AN apparent move to appease a restive military, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday finally addressed the housing problem of soldiers through the conversion of the 34-hectare Navy Golf Course inside Ft. Bonifacio into a housing project.

Ms Macapagal said that this is separate from the proclaimed lands earlier set aside for housing which would provide affordable homes to some 75,000 soldiers.

The conversion of the golf course property into a housing project was approved yesterday by the President.

The lack of housing facilities for soldiers was one of the grievances raised by rebel soldiers in the July 27 failed mutiny.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya said that the mechanics on the distribution of the property has yet to be ironed out by the AFP including the claim of the AFP Veterans Officers Association Inc. which has long wanted to take over the property.

Aside from housing, Malacañang and private sector firms also showed the soldiers with lavish perks such as discounted cellular phone cards and ocean liner tickets.

Airline firms, land transport companies, restaurants and hotels are also being encouraged by Malacañang to provide similar discounts to soldiers.

Malacañang announced the additional perks for soldiers during a special ceremony at the Heroes Hall to pay homage to 13 military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who received the Medal of Valor Award—the highest military honor bestowed on individuals for extraordinary acts of courage in the battlefield—in the last 17 years.

During the ceremony, Ms Macapagal also announced an increase in the financial benefits of the awardees' beneficiaries from P200 to P200,000 per month which she signed into law last year.

The Medal of Valor recipients and their dependents would also get priority in unfilled government jobs (as long

as they are qualified); they would get preference in loan applications amounting to P500,000 from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Government Service and Insurance System; free tuition fees in all state-run schools; and free medical and dental services in all government hospitals.

Abaya admitted that the event was an "offshoot" of the Oakwood mutiny and this was meant to showcase the "real heroes" of the military.

"They almost gave up their lives and yet they do not go out and fight the government. They experienced more hardship than those complaining and yet they do not go to the extent of overthrowing the government," Abaya said.

In the same ceremony, Mega Data Corp., an information technology firm run by the scion of Col. Rafael Garcia Sr., the first PNP superintendent, announced that it would handle the AFP's computerization project which would save the military P30 million in expenses. Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

2 Marine captains admit recruitment by Magdalo forces

By Dona Pazzibugan

TWO Marine captains who testified about corruption in the military admitted they were recruited to join the mutiny.

In their separate testimonies, Captains Danilo Luna and Ury Pesigan told the Feliciano Commission yesterday they were recruited separately by Capt. Nick Faeldon, who was at the Oakwood hotel on July 27.

But the two were vague about the details of

their meetings with Faeldon, like the meeting place and the identity of other officers at the meeting.

They said they did not discuss taking arms during the meetings.

The two apparently had separate meetings with Faeldon.

"We had a good aim, which is to help the government improve the situation," Luna said.

Pesigan said they discussed ways to ad-

dress corruption in the military "for the good of the country."

Luna said he attended two meetings somewhere in Cavite on June 3, and in Taguig on the fourth week of June.

Pesigan said he attended a meeting somewhere in Quezon City on the last week of May.

Luna told the fact-finding body that he witnessed a "highly irregular" delivery of two truckloads of government ammunition to for-

mer Panamao, Sulu mayor and ex-MNLF commander Haji Bagis on Dec. 28, 1997.

Luna said he received orders from Lt. Col. Lorenzo Dimaunahan.

Pesigan meanwhile testified about irregularities in the P67 million infrastructure work in the Marine base in Ternate, Cavite, in 1996.

He said he saw how his superiors allowed the private contractors to do substandard work.

El Shaddai clarifies position on Mike

IT was the lady, not the gentleman they are supporting.

The Catholic charismatic group, El Shaddai, yesterday clarified that it was not supporting First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who has been accused by an opposition senator of laundering millions into a fictitious account.

El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said that the group was "adopting the President's position" to allow the First Gentleman to mount his own defense without the help or protection of Malacañang.

"It is Bro. Mike's wish for the Senate to conduct an investigation of the charges to determine the truth of Senator Lacson's allegations," Robles said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Robles also disclosed that the President had "a very early breakfast" with El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde after the anniversary celebration Saturday night but did not raise the issue concerning her husband.

The two, in fact, did not discuss politics at all, Robles said.

"No help has been asked and no help has been given," the El Shaddai spokesperson stressed. Blanche S. Rivera

Solon wants 'Showgirl Showdown' stopped

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday sought to stop the scheduled showing of the controversial "Showgirl Showdown" at the Folk Arts Theater, claiming that it is obscene and degrading to women.

Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepumuceno said he will ask the court today to issue a permanent injunction on "Showgirl Showdown" scheduled on Aug. 30 because its performers, Aleck Bovick and Regine Tolentino, are engaged in obscenity and acts degrading to women.

Nepumuceno recalled that during the Showgirl Showdown held last month at the Casino Español in Angeles City, Bovick, who was wearing a two-piece bikini, pulled down her panty and showed her private parts in public.

But in an interview aired over GMA-7 yesterday, Bovick claimed that her fingers merely slipped and that was why her panty went down.

Nepumuceno, however, said that Bovick has shown no remorse

over the incident and is lying through her teeth. "Her wild demonstration was shown on TV several times and it can be seen vividly that she had the ill intention of wild public exhibition," he said.

In the same TV interview, Tolentino said the Showgirl Showdown will go on and denied that they are prostitutes.

"I'm proud of what I do. I am a wife, mother and businesswoman. Manood na lang sila baka merong dancers na madulas (Why don't they watch the show, maybe some dancers will slip)" Tolentino said, referring to Bovick's claim.

But Nepumuceno said Tolentino's statements were full of loopholes and deception. He insisted

that the Showgirl Showdown at the FAT is illegal and immoral.

"What is the difference between prostitutes and Tolentino, Bovick and company? All of them are engaged in the flesh trade," he added.

Nepumuceno said that dance itself is an art which should not be exploited. "It is a form of our highest praise to God," he said.

He also criticized starlets Apreal Tolentino and Cherry Lou for their "lewd dance" numbers on TV wearing skimpy attire which exposed their cleavage, buttocks and groins. "They were seductively sprawled on the dance floor with pumping and grinding motions, engaged in dirty dancing in public" he said.

Cynthia D. Balana

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Filipina found to be among 18 dead in Israeli blast

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A FILIPINA caregiver was found to be among those who died in the suicide bombing of a bus in Israel last week, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed yesterday.

A report from the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv identified the victim as Maria Antonia Sardan Rafales, 42, a native of Bais City, Negros Oriental. A widowed mother, she left a 16-year-old child, according to the DFA in Manila.

Eighteen people, including an 18-month-old baby, were killed and 120 others were injured when a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded bus in the Jewish neighborhood of Shmuel Hanavi on Aug. 19.

Rafales was identified only after her Filipina housemate, a certain Estrella Cruz, reported her disappearance to the police when she failed to return home at # 16 Shamai St., Jerusalem, that night.

At the Israel Forensic Institute, Cruz saw Rafales' body and positively identified her through her clothes and badly shattered face. Only her nose and mouth remained intact.

DNA tests on Rafales' remains confirmed her identity.

Reports from the Philippine Embassy said Rafales was among the bus passengers, but initial investigation by the Israeli police said Rafales was walking on the sidewalk when the explosion took place.

The Israeli government has promised to shoulder all the expenses for the return of the body

to the Philippines and provide a lifetime pension to the victim's family.

Asean cop chiefs to meet here

SOUTHEAST Asian police chiefs will meet in Manila next month to discuss anti-terrorism cooperation, officials said Monday.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations police officials will discuss how to strengthen the region's war on terrorism and cross-border crime during the Sept. 8-11 meeting, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane said.

Asean police offi-

cials will also discuss how they can intensify cooperation with

countries like Australia and New Zealand, Ebdane said. AP

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 - Meteor Rain
 - Meteor Shower
 - Meteor Garden II
- What is the range of numbers included in the game of BINGO?
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 - 1 to 80
 - 1 to 50
 - 1 to 60
- Which volcano is known for having a near-perfect cone shape?
 - Mt. Taal
 - Mt. Mayon
 - Mt. Pinatubo
 - Mt. Arayat
- Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake once worked in which children's network?
 - Disney Channel
 - Cartoon Network
 - Nickelodeon
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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

GMA orders release of 30 mutineers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the release of 30 officers and soldiers involved in the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny, saying they had been misled or coerced into joining the rebellion or were merely implicated and had not taken part at all.

"Many of the officers and soldiers implicated in the Oakwood incident were misled and deceived; intimidated or threatened by superior officers to join the plot; or were implicated but did not commit any overt acts contrary to law. I want them speedily exculpated and released," Ms Macapagal said in a speech during the recognition of Medal of Valor awardees yesterday.

But the President, however, remained unforgiving on the leaders of the mutiny. She has ordered the immediate and automatic filing of charges in court against the rogue officers.

"We will not engage in character assassination in the media. We will not speculate on evidence. The court is the only proper forum to deal with these matters," Ms Macapagal said.

Of those to be released, 27 are from the Philippine Navy, 2 from the Army and 1 from the Marines. These officers and soldiers earlier submitted evidence and counter affidavits proving they were not involved in the attempt coup. Their names were not made public.

These officers could now go back to their duties, the President said.

In an interview, AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya said the 30 officers and soldiers represent the first batch of over 300 military personnel who were earlier implicated in the mutiny based on a master list recovered from Oakwood Premier Hotel immediately after the rebellion.

Abaya said that more acquittals would be made soon. But he stressed that mere absence in the Oakwood mutiny does not guarantee immediate exculpation because some officers and soldiers might have been aware of the mutiny but failed to report the uprising to their superiors.

"Failure to prevent a mutiny is punishable under the Articles of War," Abaya said.

The government initially detained 296 soldiers, including 70 junior officers who took part in the brief and bloodless rebel takeover of Makati's financial district last month.

Sixty other officers and men were later implicated, bringing the number of detained military suspects to 356.

The government has alleged the revolt was part of a civilian-backed coup attempt that intended to assassinate Arroyo and replace her with a 15-member junta led by opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal urged Honasan, who went into hiding after being accused of masterminding the failed coup attempt, to stop playing "infantile games" and answer to rebellion charges. *With an AFP report*



RP SOLDIERS IN KUWAIT

Ambassador Roy Cimatu discusses details of the deployment of the Philippine Army contingent in the Kuwaiti desert Sunday prior to assignment in the southern Iraq. AP

Ebdane defends men

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday stood by his men in the face of accusations that they had planted explosives in the property of mutineer Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV.

Ebdane maintained that the property in Novaliches, Quezon City had been traced to Trillanes based on the trespassing case the junior officer had filed against a neighbor.

"He has some interest (in the property)," he told reporters in an ambush interview.

Besides the case and other documents,

Ebdane said the PNP was gathering more pieces of evidence to prove that Trillanes indeed owns that property.

"Sometimes, ownership is not (established) by documentation alone," he explained.

"Sometimes, a property is registered under another person's name but the real owner could be another person."

Ebdane said police were trying to find out if Trillanes, who was among the leaders of the failed July 27 military mutiny, had been frequenting the Novaliches compound before it was raided last Saturday.

Senate okays bill on dual citizenship

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE last night approved on fourth and final reading the dual citizenship bill, which will allow Filipino citizens who gave up their citizenship to re-acquire it.

Except for Sen. Joker Arroyo, all 16 senators present voted in favor of the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003.

The bill was mainly sponsored by Senate President Franklin Drilon who announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo would sign it into law not later than Friday.

"The measure will allow natural-born citizens of the Philippines, upon subscribing to an oath of allegiance to the Republic, to retain or re-acquire their Philippine citizenship concurrently with other citizenship," said Drilon.

In his sponsorship speech, Drilon said those who take an oath of allegiance to the Philippines to reassume their citizenship should be given the right to vote.

But those serving in foreign armies and holding public or elected posts in foreign countries were not covered by the proposed act, he said.

The bill will revise the 67-year-old law on Philippine citizenship, which provides that natural-born citizens who become naturalized citizens of another country automatically lose their Philippine citizenship.

"The bill restores Philippine citizenship to former natural-born Filipinos who have embraced foreign citizenship out of necessity, mostly due to legal requirements of host countries," said Drilon.

Drilon said the congressional bicameral conference committee had adopted most of the provisions of the Senate version contained in Senate Bill 2130 approved last year.

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How many times do I have to be cleared before the NBI stops hounding me?—Acsa

By Leila B. Salaverria

"HOW many times do I have to be cleared before the NBI stops hounding me?"

Acsa Ramirez, whistle-blower on the P431M Landbank tax diversion scam, was dismayed upon learning that the National Bureau of Investigation had appealed the Ombudsman's decision clearing her for a second time.

Ramirez's lawyer, Virgie Pinlac, said her client had been "overjoyed" that the bureau's earlier motion for reconsideration was denied, but was now worried by the petition for review filed before the office of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

Pinlac said she would question the filing because it was not part of legal procedure, but she was sure the petition would soon be dismissed.

Lawyer Elfen Meneses, head of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crime Division, argued that the bureau merely wanted to exhaust all legal

means, and that this was the usual paper route. He did not want to be accused of not following procedure, he said, or of neglecting a case.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the bureau did not have anything against Ramirez. "There is nothing foul, illegal or desperate about the NBI's petition," he said. "When Ombudsman Marcelo decides (on the petition), the bureau will rest its case."

Ramirez had suffered a miscarriage a few weeks before she was cleared for a second time, according to Pinlac, who pointed out that this was around the first anniversary of her client's presentation as a suspect in the scam by Wycoco and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Now Ramirez is back with her two children, after staying in a safehouse provided by Landbank. She is also back at work and was recently transferred to the Quezon City branch where she is being made acting manager for several weeks—"virtually a promotion," Pinlac pointed out.

NEWSBRIEFS

P30-M bribe try

A SUSPECTED member of a big-time drug syndicate offered P30 million to two top police officials of Silang, Cavite in exchange for the release of four suspected Taiwanese drug traffickers arrested in the province last month for drug trafficking. Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday revealed that the bribe offer was made through cellular phone by a certain "Bok" to Senior Jail Officer 4 Magdalena Limbo and Chief Insp. Conrado Gongon, chief of the Silang municipal police force. Both Limbo and Gongon turned down the offer. In a press statement, Lina said that "Bok" offered P30 million for the freedom of Leandro Co, Wen Li Chen, Daniel Co, and Wilson Li, who are currently in detention at the Silang municipal jail. The four Taiwanese are the alleged technicians in the shabu laboratory raided by police operatives in Barangay Cabangaan, Silang, Cavite. The four Chinese and their Filipino helpers Michael Tanday and Arnel Villacer, were arrested on July 12 by operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police Regional Office 4. Lina said that the incident prompted local jail and police officials to request for the immediate transfer of the suspects to a more secure location. *Nelson F. Flores*

FBI aid vs Lacson men

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has asked the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to help track down two fugitive police officers closely associated with former national police chief, now opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Chief Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Sr. Supt. Cesar Mancao fled the country after they were implicated in and charged with the November 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the FBI would be able to trace why Mancao and Aquino managed to obtain student and working visas despite their Philippine passports having been cancelled. "The issue properly belongs to the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI will help us coordinate with them," he said. Wycoco said Aquino has a student visa and was enrolled in a school in New Jersey although he has never attended classes. "He's using the visa for convenience," the NBI director said. Mancao meanwhile is said to be living somewhere in the San Francisco area on a working visa. The government in 2001 cancelled the travel documents of the two fugitives and asked US authorities to declare them undocumented and undesirable aliens, paving the way for their deportation. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Dentists set meet

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists, Philippine section, will be holding its last quarterly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Executive Lounge of Unilab, Inc. in Mandaluyong. The highlights of the affair include an exhibit of the works of the master wood carvers and painters of Paete, to be opened by the guest of honor Jeffrey D. Campos of Unilab; a business meeting to be presided by ICD president Dr. Antonio A. Baldemor; a scientific presentation by Dr. Arthur Magboo; and a discussion of "medical emergencies" in dental practice by the PNRC-Calocan City chapter. Product updates relating to dental practice are to be presented by the Westmont Therapharma and Biomedicals units of Unilab. All ICD members are invited to attend. The affair starts at 5 p.m. Fine art pieces will be raffled off. For information, call Dr. Beth Carrasco, tel. 897.4793.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 26, 2003
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You do not forget the mint, anise and cumin seeds when you pay the tenth of everything, but then you forget what is most fundamental in the Law: justice, mercy and faith. These you must practice, without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out a mosquito, but swallow a camel."

"Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You fill the plate and the cup with theft and violence, and then pronounce a blessing over them. Blind Pharisee! Purify the inside first, then the outside too will be purified."

Commentary

In today's gospel reading, Jesus continues his criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees. But he focuses on their neglect of what he says are the "weightier things" namely "judgment and mercy and fidelity." The essentials of religion are invisible to the eye and can only be truly known by the heart, for as scripture says it is "out of the abundance of the heart" that our words and actions issue forth. The Scribes and Pharisees looked good on the outside, but on the inside they were full of contempt and dislike for their fellowmen and women whom they saw as lesser than them in living the faith. They had judged all others unworthy and themselves the only worthy ones before the eyes of God. Looking good on the outside, their interior lives were nonetheless corrupted by their disdain for others.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)/POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—In flagrante delicto arrest—In flagrante delicto arrests, the accused is apprehended at the very moment he is committing or attempting to commit or has just committed an offense in the presence of the arresting officer. Emphasis should be laid on the fact that the law requires that the search be incidental to a lawful arrest. Therefore it is beyond cavil that a lawful arrest must precede the search of a person and his belongings. Accordingly, for this exception to apply two elements must concur: (1) the person to be arrested must execute an overt act indicating that he has just committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit a crime; and (2) such overt act is done in the presence or within the view of the arresting officer. The two aforementioned elements are lacking in the case at bar. The record reveals that when accused-appellant arrived at the vicinity of Thunder Inn Hotel, he merely parked his car along the McArthur Highway, alighted from it and casually proceeded towards the entrance of the hotel clutching a sealed Zesto juice box. Accused-appellant did not act in a suspicious manner. For all intents and purposes, there was no overt manifestation that accused-appellant has just committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit a crime. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division People v. Sy Chua, G.R. Nos. 136066-67, February 4, 2003] *By R. B. Vera*

2 Abus held as military steps up security in South

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops have detained two suspected Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrillas as part of stepped up security measures following the discovery of a fresh rebel plot to bomb targets in the South, the military said yesterday.

Alpaker Said, 18, also known as Hamid Salo, was arrested Sunday at a mall here, while also on Sunday troops arrested Jul Asari Misuari near the town of Zamboanga on Jolo island.

Two other Abu Sayyaf guerrillas were arrested on Basilan island last week and confessed to authorities that

the group was plotting to bomb targets in Mindanao, military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

"We were able to discover that the Abu Sayyaf (was) indeed planning to conduct bombings in western Mindanao and we're still looking for their companions who they divulged to be involved in these bombings," Lucero told reporters in Manila.

Military intelligence operatives were conducting surveillance operations against suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels identified by the two captured rebels, he said.

The bombings could be in retaliation for military offensives in the past two years, but may also be a response to the arrest of alleged terrorist mastermind Hambali, now in US custody, he said.

Authorities were also checking on the possibility that Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) explosives expert who escaped from jail at the police headquarters in Camp Crame, could be involved in the plot, Lucero said.

Troops have been combing Mindanao for Al-Ghozi since his escape last month. AFP

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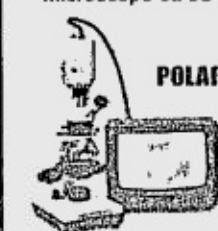
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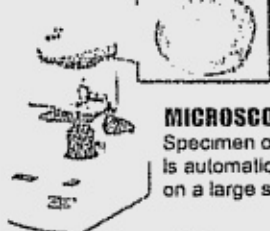
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GMA tells Gringo: End child's play Iglesia ni Cristo . . .

From page A1

In a clandestine interview with several journalists over the weekend, Honasan described how he had been going from one place to another because his confidence in the government was low.

Ms Macapagal earlier noted that there was no point in speculating about Honasan's whereabouts because he was not yet being hunted pending the filing of charges against him in court.

Malacañang has assured Honasan that he would not be ar-

rested without a warrant issued by the courts.

Honasan went into hiding two days after rejecting government allegations that he was the mastermind of a coup attempt against Ms Macapagal on July 27, when 356 junior military officers and enlisted men briefly seized the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments at the heart of the country's business district in Makati City.

Presidential aides have alleged that the mutiny was part

of a bigger plot to assassinate Ms Macapagal and replace her with a 15-member junta led by Honasan.

Nearly all the military mutineers have been arrested.

Honasan won presidential pardon in 1995 and has said he would contest the presidency in next year's election.

He has alleged the rebellion complaint filed against him is a smear campaign by the government against Ms Macapagal's potential election rivals.

A decorated former Army colonel, Honasan admitted spearheading three failed coup attempts that forced him to go underground in the 1980s. But he said he was innocent this time and was on the run again because of charges the government made up to muzzle him and other opposition politicians.

"I categorically say that my life, if I can help it, as a renegade, as a coup plotter, as a rebel, is over. But it appears that my accusers do not take my word for it," Honasan said.

He said once the threat of an arrest disappeared and Cabinet members stopped portraying him as guilty, he might consider emerging from seclusion.

Despite his inaccessibility, Honasan said he managed to run his Senate office by relaying instructions to his staff through cell phone calls and covert messages. The phone calls are short to avoid being traced, he added.

He said he planned to file a Senate resolution seeking to prohibit presidents from declaring a state of rebellion—which allows warrantless arrests—during events like the July 27 mutiny, to avoid the possible violation of constitutional safeguards to civil liberties.

Honasan hid last month after Ms Macapagal declared a state of rebellion, which has since been lifted.

He met with journalists late Saturday in a suburban Manila safehouse in a native *barong*, the prescribed wear during Senate sessions.

"This is a statement," Honasan said. "I carry my office with the minimum requirements for dignity and respect which is not being accorded to me."

He claimed he was moving around covertly to consult people on social issues, not to try to recruit a new batch of mutineers as authorities alleged. *Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, AFP*

From page A1

agani Yambot and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsarloc were named respondents.

Bienvenido C. Santiago, a top INC official who filed the libel complaint in the office of Quezon City Assistant Prosecutor Wilfredo Maynico, said the article contained "malicious imputation peddled as absolute truth injuring the honor of the INC and its millions of members worldwide."

Santiago said the news article prompted the INC hierarchy to convene a special session and decide to pursue the legal action.

He also said the INC had been swamped with calls and letters here and abroad asking about the "libelous article that maligned the integrity of the Church."

Santiago said the article portrayed the INC as a coddler or protector of Honasan, who has gone underground after he was tagged as the instigator of the July 27 Makati mutiny.

"The article transmitted, maliciously and intentionally, not only to the Filipino public but to the world, the impression that the INC harbors a fugitive from justice and/or supports the idea of a power grab to overthrow the Glo-

ria Macapagal-Arroyo administration," Santiago said in his complaint.

He also scoffed at the sourcing of the banner story—an "intelligence report obtained by the INQUIRER." This, according to the INC official, is merely intended to impress its readers that the newspaper is citing facts "even if it has no basis to say so."

Santiago said the intelligence report was most likely the work of a group aiming to sow intrigue in a bid to drag the good name and reputation of the religious group in the current political mess.

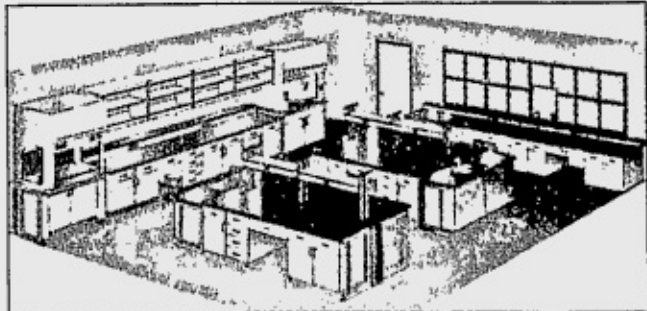
He also denied that the INC had allowed its Central Office to become the hiding place for fugitives. "She (INC) has not allowed and will never allow that," he said.

According to the article, Honasan has been using a so-called Pentagon Room inside the INC compound as his command post.

Santiago said there was no such room inside the INC Central Office. He said the INC only held sacred activities inside the compound.

"The INC compound is dedicated to the service and worship of God," Santiago stressed. *Tina Santos*

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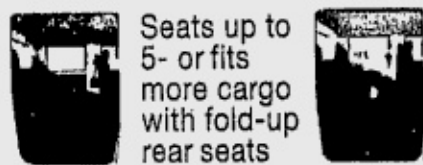
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Expert says RP can eradicate ...

From page A1
cause the culture has changed," Kwok said.

Kwok retired last year from the Icac after 35 years in the service. "I am here as a voluntary consultant because I feel that corruption has become a top agenda not only here but also in other countries."

Ms Macapagal thanked Kwok for his willingness to help the government. "Thank you for your voluntary service to help our government curb graft and corruption. I'm sure our graft busters will learn more and improve their investigative work to fight graft and corruption in our society," she said.

Camacho informed Ms Macapagal that before they called on her in Malacañang, Kwok conducted a seminar for finance investigators, officers and employees of the Department of Finance.

He also said Kwok was scheduled to meet with Commissioners Guillermo Parayno of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Antonio Bernardo of the Bureau of Customs and Karina David of the Civil Service Commission.

Good legislation

Kwok said a key factor in any successful anticorruption drive was good legislation—primarily in granting the anticorruption unit with the appropriate powers, and in allocating the resources needed to sufficiently bankroll the project.

"From my experience, corruption is one of the most difficult crimes to investigate and it requires proper resources," he said.

Hong Kong, he noted, spends HK\$89 million (about P630 million) on its anticorruption drive a year. "It might look big but it would generate more savings to the economy."

In uprooting corruption, Kwok said



PRESIDENT Macapagal meets Tony Kwok, an anticorruption expert and former deputy commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption in Hong Kong, at the study room in Malacañang. Looking on is Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.
EDWIN BACASMAS

it was necessary to focus on three basic activities: deterrence (forming a large, powerful investigative body to go after transgressors); prevention (establishing a team of management experts that would plug the loopholes and suggest reforms to achieve more transparency and accountability); and education (a committee of experts to teach the value of honesty and ethics to all students).

Kwok said a low-paying job in the bureaucracy was not an excuse for corruption because a government employee can choose to transfer to a similar job in the private sector and get higher pay.

During Kwok's courtesy call, Camacho informed Ms Macapagal that the Hong Kong expert would conduct a series of seminars for the investigators of the BIR, BOC, CSC and the Office of the Ombudsman, to brief them on effective anti-corruption strategies.

Since 1974

Kwok told Ms Macapagal that

when he joined the Icac in 1975, Hong Kong was among the most corrupt places in the world. (The commission was set up in 1974.)

Kwok has 35 years of experience in law enforcement. He joined the Hong Kong Customs Department as a sub-inspector and was promoted to inspector in 1970. During his nine-year service in Customs, he acquired experience in customs control, drug enforcement, finance investigators, intelligence collation and prosecution.

In 1986, he led an Icac-Police Task Force with 30 officers to investigate the collapse of the third largest local bank in Hong Kong, which involved a loss of HK\$3 billion (about P21 billion).

The investigation was successfully concluded in 16 months, resulting in five convictions, including the extradition of two persons from the United States.

Kwok was subsequently awarded a governor's commendation for his leadership and professional ability.

'No untouchables ...

From page A1

he said.

"There has been strong public response to our anti-graft campaign," Villa-Ignacio said, adding that information started to pour in after they filed graft cases against two batches of officials from the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

But Customs employees took strong exception to the way the lifestyle check was being conducted, and said most of them were receiving only the minimum wage.

Romy Pagulayan, president of the Bureau of Customs Employees Association, said most of the employees were "in fact within the poverty line." The average employee, he said, was receiving only around P8,000 a month. The cost of living is now around P15,000, he added.

He had a message for Malacañang. "Why don't you start in your own backyard? Who are the members of the Transparency Group who are not transparent enough?"

Antigraft unit

Tiglaio said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had asked Ms Macapagal to issue an executive order creating a permanent antigraft unit in the Department of Finance, which oversees the BIR and the BOC.

He explained that the DOF group set up in March and conducting the lifestyle checks of DOF-attached agencies was only ad hoc.

Tiglaio also said the Transparency Group was only coordinating with and assisting the DOF, primarily in formulating antigraft policies. This is because it was only his office which is in a position to ask all officials to submit their SALs.

"The Transparency Group was set up only to help push, jump-start antigraft campaign. It's not a permanent unit," he said.

He said the government's campaign against graft and unexplained wealth involved several agencies being coordinated or assisted by the Transparency Group.

These, he said, included the DOF, the Department of Justice whose prosecutors evaluate the cases filed against erring officials, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police for their "experienced investigators," the National Bureau of Investigation, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, the Presidential Anti-

Graft Commission, nongovernment organizations and heads of all agencies where probes were being undertaken.

"All published (reports) involve cases filed. The government never released names of people being probed. No one can muzzle the press for reporting cases filed," Tiglaio also said.

In her statement, Ms Macapagal asked the public to submit evidence against officials with unexplained wealth, saying the government would "deliver it immediately to the courts."

"But I won't act on unsubstantiated media tirades. The Palace is not a court of speculation or intrigue," she said.

Girl friends

Villa-Ignacio said the Ombudsman's informants included contractors, importers, brokers and construction material suppliers.

"Would you believe that some Customs men send their girl friends to pick up the bribe money. Sometimes, they ask importers to buy cars for their girl friends," he said.

According to him, a common line from informants who read about the filing of graft charges was: "Totoo yan, hiningan ako niyan (That's true. He asked money from me)."

During the interview, someone called Villa-Ignacio's mobile phone and the ranking Ombudsman official was heard saying: "Yes. We already have him on our list of officials being investigated."

He later went on to scribble notes regarding alleged anomalies of the official concerned.

He said his office working to have some of these complainants testify in court.

"The lifestyle investigation and filing of cases will continue," he said, adding that they were not going to stop now that they are beginning to get the people's support.

According to him, Customs men have nothing to complain about. "If their wealth is legitimate and they have nothing to hide, why worry?" he said.

But the BoCEA's Pagulayan said the lifestyle check was just "a tactical move" to derail the employees' demand for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase and to punish them for their resistance to the lateral attrition bill pending in the Senate.

He echoed the sentiments of bureau officials who denounced what they said was trial by publicity and demanded due process in the conduct of the lifestyle check.

Lifestyle check? The shoes ...

From page A1

Metropolitan Cathedral with a torn sole.

His escorts called the chief's attention to the mishap right after the march. Instead of deserting the wedding of Jet Patrocinio and Bechai Concha, the *ninong* (primary sponsor) borrowed a pair from the PNP regional director.

The guests found the incident hilarious, Ebdane recalled. He found it timely.

Surely, he said, frequent use had taken its toll on his "favorite" shoes, purchased from a discount store in the United States "a long time ago." And surely, he believed, this should speak loud and clear of his economic circumstance in the face of ongoing lifestyle checks on government officials and employees.

Complying with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive, the PNP has placed all of its members under the microscope. But since not all policemen could be guaranteed an audience when their Florsheims bite the dust, the

chief has been battling for maximum discretion in their case.

This means Ebdane wants the statements of assets and liabilities of police officers confidential and, when necessary, made publicly available only with a court order.

The antigraft drive within the police force is being conducted by the directorate for personnel and records management. On top of the checklist are police officials reportedly frequenting nightclubs and perennially treating reporters to nights out in bars and restaurants.

As for the results, Ebdane is firm: "Though they are public documents, they are also controlled documents." To underscore his point, he asked media men: "You, do you want your salaries to be made public?"

Whereupon, several reporters studied one another's shoes.

And they all came out with the one statement of import that the PNP chief had to share yesterday, albeit in jest: "Always bring rugby."

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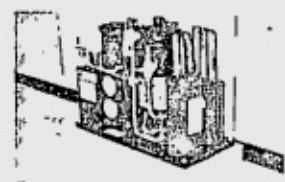
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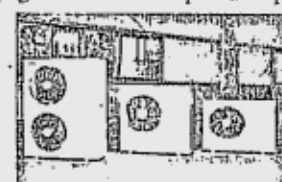
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Compassion

NATIONAL ARTIST for Film Eddie Romero summed it up well when he said, "there is a great need for films that reflect the human condition."

Speaking at the Awards Night of the just-concluded Makati Cinemania Film Festival, Romero said, "Film is the most powerful medium of the century." Unfortunately, he added, it is often very powerful when it is bad.

He also said that the film "is the great gulf that divides countries, but it is also the great thing that binds them together."

Truly, the cineastes and "movie freaks" that flocked to Cinemania for nearly three weeks got a good look at the human condition in watching about 80 films—16 in competition and the rest in exhibition.

Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles' ironically titled "Cidade de Deus" (City of God) shared the Grand Jury Prize with Japanese director Sabu's "The Blessing Bell."

"City of God" tells the story of a housing project that became one of the most dangerous places in Rio de Janeiro; it witnessed almost daily killings in the '80s. But viewing the occurrences through the eyes of the narrator, a black youth who becomes a photojournalist, one begins to understand the humanity of this world that is apparently condemned to violence.

"The Blessing Bell," which has been described as "an unconventional meditation on the human condition," tells the story of a man who wanders in and out of people's lives. He journeys from poverty to riches and then back to poverty, and from adulation to despair and finally returns to his normal, everyday life.

Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Uzak" (Distant), which won the Lino Brocka Award, shows the relationship between a melancholic and obsessive middle-aged photographer and his cousin, a country boy who comes to Istanbul to look for a job aboard a ship. It won the Jury Prize at the recent Cannes International Film Festival.

In the closing film, "Rok Dabla" (Year of the Devil), directed by Petr Zelenka, a Czech folk star, a band of funeral musicians and a Dutch filmmaker experience enlightenment on a musical tour. The film fuses fact and fiction in a musical, magical adventure that features ghosts and guardian angels helping people hear the melodies within them.

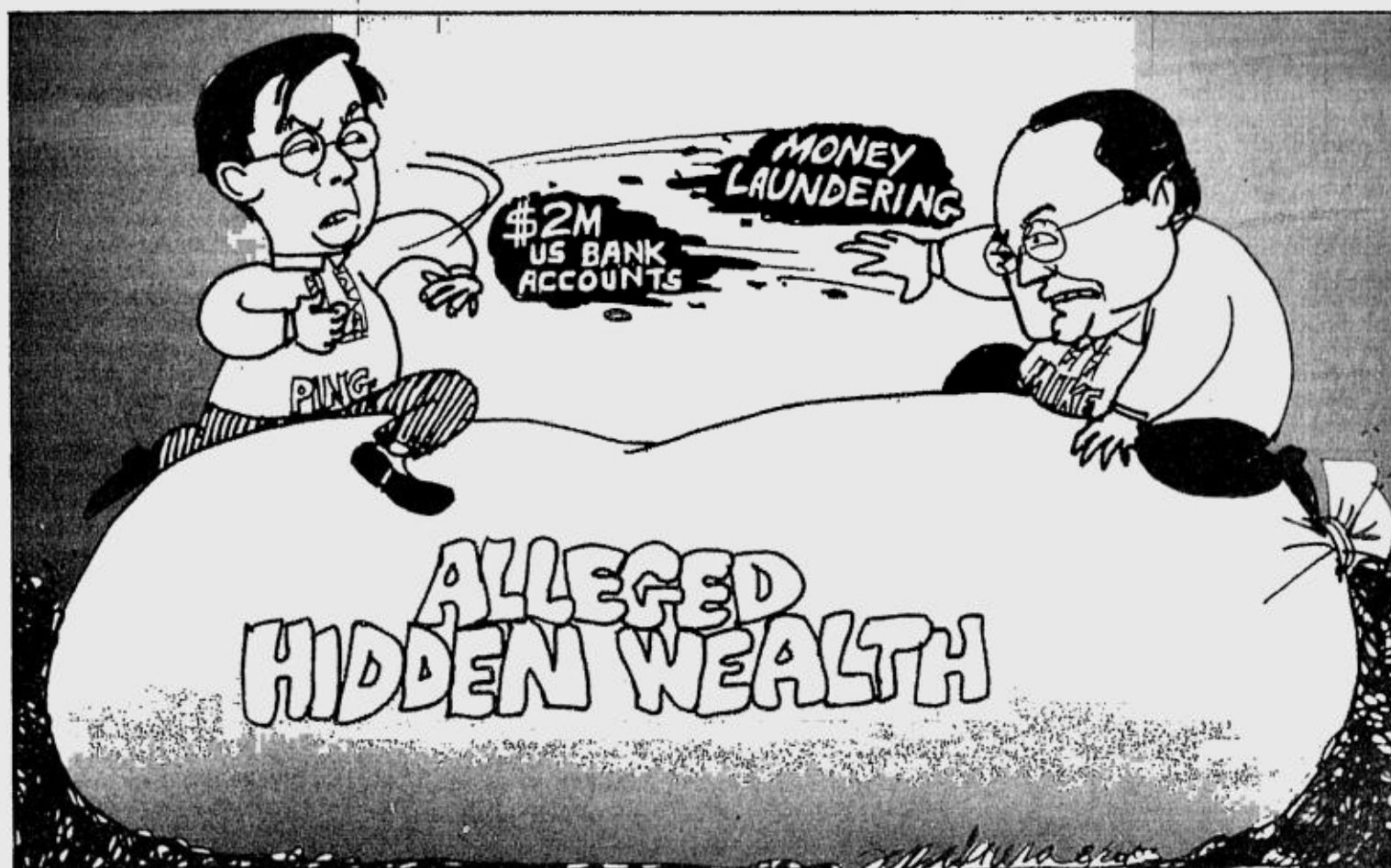
Japanese director Takeshi Kitano's "Dolls" impressed many with its elegantly photographed stories of doomed love connected by the central theme of the "bound beggars" of the traditional Bunraku puppet theater. Showing the now lush, now monochromatic colors of the seasons, and featuring long silences and dialogue-less encounters, it is very Zen and very Japanese.

The three-hour-long "Dogville," the final film of the festival, played to a standing-room-only audience. It tells the story of a beautiful woman, Grace (played by the lovely and versatile Nicole Kidman), running away from a group of gangsters and ending up in the remote town of Dogville. Here she goes through a harrowing experience—ostracism, betrayal, sexual assault and imprisonment on false charges. This Bergmanesque film directed by Danish director Lars Von Trier raises some disturbing philosophical and moral questions.

Most of the films of the festival are serious movies that make people think, feel and meditate on the human condition. They would not click with the "masa" or the "bakya crowd" that is hankering for pure, unadulterated amusement of the kind that is exemplified by the grotesqueries and obscenities that pass for entertainment in some "bold" films and on noontime TV shows.

Virgie Moreno of the UP Film Institute said that it would probably take a hundred years before Filipino filmmakers make a film like "Dolls," a movie that features long periods of silences. Filipino audiences—and some artists even—hate a vacuum in works of art. But that is where the cultural differences of which Romero spoke comes in. Film can divide us because of our different cultures, but it can also bind us because of our common humanity.

Romero also talked about films promoting compassion—a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it. It is a feeling that is much needed in our country and in the world in these hard and stressful times. We can only hope that our own filmmakers would produce more movies that would promote compassion and understanding and make people meditate on the human condition.



Making open trade work for the poor

COMMENTARY

Douglas Brooks

TRADE ministers from around the world will meet in Cancun, Mexico, next month to assess progress in making the ongoing series of World Trade Organization negotiations a "development round." Their success in achieving that goal will have a profound effect on the future of hundreds of millions of poor farmers and workers around the world.

Disputes over whether and how developed economies should open their agricultural markets to freer trade have dominated the talks so far. Increased access to, and less competition from, developed markets would be a huge boon to most developing economies. But for trade liberalization to have the greatest positive impact on poverty reduction, it must be accompanied by reforms within developing countries to increase the access of the poor to the gains from trade.

International trade expands the range of goods and services available to the poor and reduces prices, increasing real income and reducing poverty.

The greatest impact of trade on the poor is through its contribution to economic growth. But trade can also increase employment and investment opportunities, and increase the availability of complementary factors of production that raise the productivity of the poor. Access to these potential benefits is a critical factor in reducing both relative and absolute poverty.

Agriculture plays a key role in the fight against poverty. The farm economy in many developing countries is closely linked to other sectors and has the potential for greater trade. By virtue of its size in many countries, a stronger agricultural sector could provide a broad base of demand for other domestic products and non-farm activities involving the rural poor.

Removing protection in developed country

markets would lead to opportunities for developing country farmers to sell their goods at higher prices. At the household level, this would benefit most net sellers of food in poor countries. Most net buyers of food in the developing world are unskilled labor. Demand for their services is expected to rise when cuts are made in textile and clothing protection with the end of the Multifiber Arrangement at the end of 2004. Consequently, even developing countries that are net food importers could be better off with real trade liberalization.

To make the most of these opportunities for the poor, developing countries need to adopt policies that promote macroeconomic stability and introduce or enhance labor market flexibility, competitive product markets, transparency, a realistic exchange rate and nondiscriminatory treatment of foreign investors.

Education, governance improvements, land titling and secure property rights play an essential role in ensuring the poor can take full advantage of the changes.

Active participation in the market economy is the central linkage between trade liberalization and poverty. For the poor to play a larger role in that economy, labor markets must be flexible, small-scale enterprises need access to capital and workers need opportunities for training and skills development. With these building blocks in place, greater involvement in the economy by the poor can have a dramatic effect on poverty reduction.

The ability of greater trade to attract informal sector workers into the formal economy

reduces poverty while simultaneously raising government revenues as more economic transactions become recorded. Furthermore, each new job in the formal sector typically generates additional informal sector jobs through increased demand and subcontracting arrangements.

As these ripples spread through an economy, trade liberalization pressures governments and societies to become more transparent to meet international standards and it imposes or reinforces market discipline, usually resulting in greater efficiency.

Each economy must tailor its reform agenda to take greatest advantage of its existing endowments and policies and its potential strengths. But while the optimal policy mix remains country-specific, there is little doubt that a conducive policy environment is critical to achieving the maximum benefits from expanding international trade and making a substantial contribution to poverty reduction.

It is important to remember that while trade liberalization and expansion benefit the poor in general, not all trade-related effects on poverty are necessarily positive. Changes in trade flows or patterns will likely alter the nature of risks and uncertainties faced by the poor. This may create hardship for some, making social safety nets essential to ease the transition.

As they prepare to gather in Cancun, trade ministers from around the world must recognize that all parties must act to make the most of freer trade. A true development round of trade liberalization, complemented by domestic reforms in developing countries, has tremendous potential for improving hundreds of millions of lives.

Douglas Brooks is a senior economist at the Asian Development Bank.

Power to the people

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



and left and which Erap tried to stifle at one point, spearheaded his downfall. Two was the digital revolution, which made possible e-mail and text, the first encouraging analysis, the second satirical mayhem. For the first time, Filipinos in the US and elsewhere could protest tyranny at home in real time. And three was the greening of "civil society," the NGOs and other groups that spoke on behalf of the "marginalized" and "disempowered." They were the ones who protested Erap's errant ways from the start and raised organized opposition to it.

The future of Edsa II was bright not because it had birthed a promising rule but because it had bequeathed to the people new possibilities for being heard. Unraveling those possibilities was the real task.

It didn't happen of course. The very opposite in fact did. As with Edsa I, Edsa II did not produce a strong people, it produced a strong state. In both cases, the retrogression began from the start, in the attribution of the authorship of Edsa to a few individuals aided by an abstract horde. The whole concept of "people power" in fact was reduced to how many people you could inveigle to a geographical space, preferably the Edsa Shrine, to support a cause. "People power" ceased to be an active entity with a will of its own, it became a passive one that could be summoned at will. Like a genie, or a servant.

In both cases as well, the task of strengthening "people power" was hijacked by an all-consuming project that concentrated power in the state—in particular to the one entity that enforced martial law, which was the military—rather than dispersed it among various social institutions. In Cory's time, it was anti-

insurgency, in GMA's time, it is "the war against terror."

Both led to the stifling of human rights in the name of National Security. The "war against terror" has proved particularly effective in blunting the instruments that made "people power" possible. Civil society was silenced, helped in no small way by its leaders being in government; media were intimidated, helped in no small way by the foreign media repeating the mantra of war; and the e-mail became an instrument by Filipinos in the US, in particular, to show they were more American than Americans.

If Cory is serious about leaving a legacy of "people power" to the country, she has to do more than recognize people or groups that have contributed to making "people power" a living, breathing, reality. Of course, I agree completely that Naga City under Jesse Robredo, who won the Magsaysay Award for government service a few years ago, deserves to be recognized so. That place has always been an epitome of neighborliness or downright civility, which is what civil society should mean as well. It is no surprise that the local government, the NGOs and the media there are able to coexist dynamically and contribute to the progress of the city.

But it's more than that. We ourselves are serious about reviving "people power," or indeed defending democracy, we have to seize back the power that has been usurped from us in the name of safeguarding us. It can't be by token gestures. It has to be by vigorous action. I do not mean by this taking to the streets again and toppling the current government. The elections next year should take care of that. I mean by this refusing to be stampeded like a herd into timid acquiescence by chants of "National Security," "Terror" and "You are with me or against me." I mean by this reversing the process that has taken place since GMA took over by reaffirming that the true basis of a democracy—indeed one spawned by "people power"—is a strong citizenry and not a strong republic.

"People power" in fact simply means giving power to the people.

Sense of urgency about Charter change

THE SENATE was scheduled to begin yesterday the plenary debate on the report of the committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara that has recommended convening a constitutional convention (Con-con). Senate President Franklin Drilon requested Majority Leader Loren Legarda to calendar it. After the debates the next step will be the plenary vote to either approve or reject that report. If approved, it goes to the bicameral conference committee for reconciliation. Thus, the issue of Charter change again takes the spotlight after a few months of being kept backstage, despite the overwhelming vote for a constituent assembly (Consa) in the House of Representatives.

The issue of Charter change returns with more urgency now, after the failed Oakwood rebellion showed how junior military officers can destabilize the country, and it is also a reaction against the terrible political character assassinations that seem to accompany the contest for political power. In fact, in Congress one can sense that urgency now after the lawmakers realized that the clause about the Armed Forces being the "protector" of the people has to be amended if military adventurism is to be discouraged. The decision to amend the Charter has to be made by the entire Congress, as Speaker Jose de Venecia has stressed to the senators, before Sept. 12, when it goes on recess. For if Congress fails to approve it by then, the next chance will be 2010, and by that time, the political situation may have deteriorated so much and the country's economy may have become so crippled that there's not much chance for recovery.

Because of this sense of urgency in Congress, both the advocates of Con-con and of Consa are gearing for what could be the last battleground: the bicameral conference committee. Consa advocates are expected to push for their method of change as the most expedient and inexpensive way. Given the events in recent weeks, it's got to be Consa. Let's hope the senators see the light and give Consa a chance.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



It is interesting to note that the two politicians who today hog the limelight, Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, are classmates from PMA's Class '71 who aim for the ultimate power but these rivals are coming from different directions. Their methods also differ, even if both are good at grandstanding. Lacson is openly campaigning to win the presidency in 2004, but his strategy is to erode the base of power of President Macapagal-Arroyo by attacking her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. Lacson plans to elaborate on his charge of money laundering against Arroyo in the coming joint committee hearings in the Senate. It is doubtful if he would file charges in court as Arroyo has challenged him to do, since they may not stand scrutiny there. It's sufficient for his political goal that the Senate serve as his propaganda stage, and he's cleverly using the media for his ploy.

Honasan, the baron of PMA Class '71, seeks to gain power by being a party, as the government alleges, to a coup d'état, taking advantage of the idealism of much younger, gullible military officers who fall under his charismatic spell. Honasan tried his hand at politics serving two terms in the Senate, but pitted against veteran senators, he didn't do well (neither does Lacson) and critics have termed his Senate stint as "forgettable." It seemed easier to convince the young officers to help him grab power through a coup. After the failed Oakwood rebellion, Honasan has been on the run like he had been after earlier coup attempts, preferring to answer charges against him via clandestine media interviews that clothe him with an aura of legend, which make

him look much more romantic than being in a legislator's dull barong. Like his high-profile classmate, Honasan is expert at using the media.

The problem is that they are both launching their quest for power with serious disabilities. Lacson has been accused by majority of his Senate colleagues of involvement in drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and other crimes as former PAOCTF and PNP chief. A plenary vote on the joint committee report sponsored by Sen. Robert Barbers detailing his activities has been successfully blocked by him. He is also implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng case and now, some pro-administration members of the House are seeking a Department of Justice investigation into Lacson's bank accounts in the US, which he had earlier denied. Honasan, on the other hand, has been accused by his former RAM colleagues of manipulating his men and deserting them in past coups.

Honasan was quoted by INQ7's Fe Zamora as saying the reason he won't come out is that he fears being arrested without a warrant. But he has to be convinced that this won't happen because the judicial process is very specific; he risks arrest more if he continues to ignore it. I asked Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida about the status of his case, and Calida explained that the Department of Interior and Local Government has filed with the DOJ a complaint for coup d'état against Honasan et al. based on the affidavit of Major Ragil. The DOJ conducted a preliminary investigation and gave Honasan 10 days to file his counter-affidavit. The senator asked for an extension and was given another 10 days, but up to now he has failed to file it. If the Aug. 28 deadline lapses without that counter-affidavit, the panel of prosecutors will evaluate the evidence based only on Ragil's affidavit. Assuming it establishes probable cause, an information will be filed in court, and the judge, after evaluation, could then issue a warrant of arrest. Honasan would be arrested once that warrant is issued. His best bet is to submit to due process and get the best legal help.

'Bakwit power'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

gles to have a hand in deciding their own future.

Last July 13-15, a combined group of NGO representatives and evacuees took part in "Bantay Ceasefire 2," an assessment of the conditions in 13 displaced communities. According to a report, there was special focus on Barangay Inug-og, Pagalungan, a main evacuation area, which was declared by Malacañang as a "sanctuary of peace" last June 13. The mission sought to assess the impact of such a declaration on the village.

The mission, with about 50 members, was conducted while large parts of Maguindanao were still underwater from flash floods. As Mary Ann, who was part of the mission, recalls, they had to wade through waist- and even chest-deep water just to reach some settlements.

"There is a general feeling of fear and insecurity among evacuees who returned to their barangays in Pikit (last) June 9," the report states. "Residents claimed in interviews that they were forced by the Pikit local government to return to their communities even if there was no bilateral ceasefire yet at the time. The return was imposed upon the evacuees combining promises, persuasion and threats such as stopping relief supply in the evacuation centers, bulldozing the centers, non-provision of core shelters and even physical harm."

HAVING returned to their villages, the former evacuees found themselves facing even graver problems. One was finding out that they would have to live almost side-by-side with military troops (Marines) whose camps had been set up within the barangays.

Relationships among the returnees and the

Marines are generally good, the mission found, with residents averring that the Marines are disciplined and respectful to them. "But even with these good relations," states the mission report, "civilians say they still prefer these troops to immediately reposition (themselves) away from their communities so that they could go back to their normal lives."

The Marine officers explained that the decision to build the core shelters for returnees near the camp was based on their desire to secure the residents in case of a rebel attack. But as the report says: "While the mission finds that rehabilitation efforts at constructing core shelters for the evacuees to be laudable, it finds quite disturbing that...what appears to be a purely humanitarian effort has been tainted with military objectives."

Bai Magdalena voiced her and her fellow evacuees' concerns thus: "If we are made to live close to the military camp, then we will always be caught in the crossfire between both groups."

OTHER problems confronting them sound quite familiar, being common to places where there has been armed fighting.

One of these is the presence of unexploded bombs, land mines, ordnance and booby traps. Last June, a returnee named Tatuan Mamadra was injured when a 105 mm. howitzer shell exploded while he was burning dried grass to clear his farmland. In another village, three civilians were injured when they accidentally stepped on booby traps near a Marine camp.

As a result, the returnees are now demanding that the government field teams to "clean up" their area and rid them of this threat.

On the whole, though, the *bakwits* are asserting their right to sit at least as observers in the peace negotiations that are, to a large extent, about their future. "They want to make their voices heard," says Mary Ann, "since the talks are going to determine what their future will be like." To that end, they have become more pro-active, insisting on addressing the negotiators "even when we're not invited." "Bakwit Power" in action!

IF things are looking better on the peace front in Mindanao, it's not just because of the willingness of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to work out negotiations for peace. Increasingly, the people most affected by the conflict, that is, the civilian population, have been exerting pressure on both sides to approach the negotiating table and bring peace to the area.

Last June 24-26, as many as 8,000 evacuees from the conflict areas of Pikit in Cotabato and Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao staged a protest that has come to be known as "Bakwit Power," *"bakwit"* being the common term in the area for "evacuee."

Carrying placards bearing their demands for a ceasefire and calls for peace, the *"bakwits"* lined one side of the highway, forming a line that stretched for nearly 10 kms. In Pagalungan, the protesters were able to hand their manifesto, bearing six demands, to a Cabinet member who promised to bring it to the attention of the Macapagal administration.

The protests continued for the next few days, sustaining the call for a bilateral ceasefire and the return for the GRP and MILF to the negotiating table.

Doubtless, the protests helped hasten the moves toward a ceasefire, and created a more conducive atmosphere for peace talks. But even if nothing resulted from these actions, they had quite another, unexpected result on the evacuees themselves.

"Ang pakiramdam namin, meron naman pala kaming magagawa (Our feeling was, there was something we could do after all)," said Bai Magdalena Pontogan, chair of the Mindanao People's Caucus, herself an evacuee from the conflict and a representative of the non-Muslim indigenous people of Mindanao. "The people later confided that it felt good to act on their own behalf and not just keep on waiting for dole-outs," added Mary Ann Armando, deputy director of the Mindanao-based Initiatives for International Dialogue which has been working closely with the peace movement.

BUT this was not the end of the *bakwits'* strug-

Like Lemmings to the Sea

IN 1973, at the time of the first oil crisis, most everyone expected the United States to free themselves of the addiction to fossil fuel from the Middle East and find cleaner, healthier, certainly safer alternatives to what oilmen romantically refer to as "black gold." (With one American getting killed every day in Iraq there is certainly nothing romantic about it.) I would have thought the addiction, like all other addictions, exacts too high a price. Twenty years ago people looked forward to American cars rolling off the assembly lines powered by batteries or running on hydrogen or natural gas. Anything but on a finite resource that pollutes the atmosphere and has everyone wondering when the next terrorist attack will hit.

People also expected the phase out of Cadillacs and Lincoln Continentals and the rest of the gas guzzlers. But instead of encouraging the use of smaller cars and the virtue of thrift, the US decided that SUVs were the answer to every driver's prayer. Maybe, Americans can afford the luxury of these vehicles. I mean, if you're reputedly the only World Power left and the richest nation on earth, why the hell not?

But given the poverty of the majority of the populace in this country, what are we doing with these behemoths? Obviously we weren't about to turn our backs on the latest status symbol from Uncle Sam. No way, Jose; as soon as the first SUV appeared in a Madison Avenue ad, there we were checkbooks in hand. Never mind that the peso is P55 to the dollar. If the United States isn't willing to liberate itself from dependence on Arab oil, why should we?

You have to admit that no president of this country has taken us by the scruff of our necks and told us that the time of fun and games is over. We just cannot afford our lifestyle. But apparently truth is anathema around here that no one likes to hear: for example, our version of land reform

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



just isn't working or the PCCG is full of it and should be abolished. You know what I mean. So, there's hardly likely anybody to tell us we're living way over our means.

In the meantime in 1992-93, the Gas Authority in India (no way similar to our Energy Regulatory Commission) decided to establish the feasibility of compressed natural gas as an alternative fuel by running transport buses and light commercial vehicles on CNG. Three years later, their Supreme Court ordered all government vehicles in New Delhi to convert to CNG or be fitted with catalytic converter. (As known as political will as though you didn't know.)

In 1997, their Ministry of Environment and Forests identified the transport sector as one of the major sources of air pollution in Delhi and recommended that the mandatory use of CNG be extended to the private sector. By 2001 there were 80 CNG dispensing stations. The Supreme Court directed as well that both public and private vehicles be converted to CNG by March 2001. At present there are more than 100 outlets or stations in Delhi. More than 75,000 vehicles are now running on CNG in Delhi out of which more than 7,000 are buses and more than 50,000 are 3-wheelers or pedicabs. (Think of what this could do for Baguio if their officials had any sense, which obviously by the looks of that concrete fir tree they don't.)

Compared to diesel and petrol, CNG is relative-

ly clean. It doesn't contain any sulphur and lead. It does, however, contain methane hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen although in lesser quantities than that of diesel and petrol. With the introduction of CNG, Delhi received the US Department of Energy's First Clean Cities International Partner of the Year Award for its "bold efforts to curb air pollution and support alternative fuel initiatives." It would be nice to believe that someday we will find the will to do something right for a change and receive due recognition for service to people rather than for beauty contestants and dancing queens.

Our Department of Energy (yes, it does exist) is preparing a memorandum of agreement with the Gas Authority of India Ltd. According to the information I received from the Indian Embassy, almost any vehicle can be converted to operate on CNG. The conversion can be done in a day. Natural gas is colorless, odorless, non-toxic and lighter than air. It is not a liquid fuel and it is not the same as LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) which consists of propane and butane in liquid form. It operates at 1/3 the cost of conventional fuel and is lead-free. It reduces harmful emissions and is non-corrosive, enhancing the longevity of spark plugs. Petrol and diesel are heavier than air while natural gas is lighter, which means that in a case of a cylinder leak the gas will burn above ground level and disperse in the atmosphere. Thus it is also safe fuel.

Aside from being environmentally friendly, natural gas reduces fuel consumption by 50 percent so that whatever is spent in converting an engine and installing a kit could be recovered within a year. It has been explained that CNG will contribute in lowering air pollution and help in improving our balance of payment by acting as a substitute for imported liquid fuels. The question is do we really want to pull ourselves by the bootstraps and get out of the morass we're in?

Idealism

"If the officers are angry, it means that the men are weary." —Sun Tzu

"GIVEN a government that is deeply entrenched in corruption and an AFP that not only protects such government but shares in its iniquities, would we not want to be saved by men like them?"

To this question posed by Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes, my reply is no. The Filipino can save himself. He has done so on several occasions.

In fact, the Filipino has saved lesser men than the lieutenant, although they were driven by motives far less noble than his.

Whether the Filipino is ready or willing or courageous enough to save himself now is the more important question. And if he is not, then Trillanes is right: we deserve the government that we have.

We serve the same masters that he serves, and we defy them like he does. We have long thrown away that antiquated dictum by Hubbard on loyalty (Resign your position, and when you're on the outside, damn to your heart's content), for there is a greater principle behind it, one that says that loyalty to institutions, principles and ideals far outweigh subservience to individuals, masters and their selfish interests.

For why should we give those who strive to kill youth in the young the satisfaction of knowing they have driven us from what we have persevered to achieve? Ours is not simply the right to question, ours is the duty to rectify—and to rectify from within. This separates us from those who blindly follow, or connive, or conspire for the pitiful privilege of being able to feed off scraps that fall from the table of the corrupt. This is what is called moral fortitude, a concept foreign to those whose idealism has long been lost so that those who continue to embrace it become objects of hate.

We have been called idealists as if idealism were a misplaced frame of mind that leads the young to pursue unattainable visions through rash, illogical means. Yet, they praise those who died in defense of the society they now lead, most of them our age. How easily people forget. How shamelessly they choose to.

Now what Trillanes and company did are described as adventurism and they themselves are being called rogues. The President said she had bent backwards and disregarded the chain of command when she met with Trillanes. But had she listened with sincerity during that brief moment in history, she would have admitted that the Constitution and the democracy she was sworn to uphold was written with the blood of the young and legitimized by their idealism.

We do not agree with the actions taken by Trillanes and company—not for now, anyway. But neither are we ready to judge them and what they did. I write because I can write. I speak because I am good at it. We all do what we can, when we feel it is right to do it.

In the end, history will judge us all: those who are willing to die for their beliefs, those who turned the incident into a *miting de avance* in Malacañang, and those whose futures rest not on their competence but on whose behinds they kiss.

The finger-pointing will continue, and I doubt if it will ever stop. The blame will go to the leftists, the Muslim extremists, the terrorists. But it will never ever be the fault of our leaders. Because unlike the young military officers, they will not take responsibility for their actions. Instead, they will claim that their adventurism set an undesirable precedent, ignoring the fact that precedents are but actions resulting from situations—situations, which are not of our choosing but which remain unchanged because they benefit the incumbents.

Trillanes said the Magdalo group had scored a moral victory. We agree. They said their piece and the people listened. There was no need for further bloodshed. It would just have diminished the purity of what they had to say. What they said had been heard by those who needed to hear it. And they are not those who can address their grievances yet choose not to but those who can enthrone leaders who will. These are the Filipino people, the only ones who can save themselves when the time is right, through legitimate and constitutional means.

Our leaders said they would address the soldiers' grievances and the AFP would be reformed. How could they miss the point completely? There is an underlying principle behind the soldier's message, and it is one of reform for the entire government system.

Like the young military officers we also have our grievances. We joined Edsa II while working in the Office of the President, and soon found ourselves working without pay once for a period of five months. Our boss has to keep justifying the existence of our office and the retention of its employees. Which is sad because he has shown great enthusiasm and vision in his work as well as his unwavering support for the incumbent administration.

We do not embrace any single political ideology as if it were gospel truth. Our faith stems from our youth and we abide by the principles of honor, courage and idealism. We believe a strong republic should be founded on unity, but unity for the right reasons. There can be no unity in corruption.

Karl Allan C. Barlaan, 28, works as a director in the Office of the President.

IN THE NEWS



Fidel V. Ramos

We can be a prosperous nation

THERE is one thing common to all prosperous nations—the United States, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most European countries have freed themselves from total dependence on agriculture as their source of livelihood. They have developed other industries on which they depend for their survival as a nation.

Prosperous countries have learned to pool their resources together, to produce tremendous

starting capital for their industries through the stock market. How do factories develop in these countries? By creating corporations, people invest in the stock market. The money they buy their stock certificates with is where the capital to buy equipment, machineries, raw materials and to pay the wages and salaries of the people who run industries come from. And most people work in factories.

Due to tremendous productivity,

almost everybody can afford the comforts of beautiful homes, luxurious cars and good education for their children. Although people pay a lot of taxes, they are not complaining because they are contented with how their government takes care of everybody's needs—from childbirth to retirement. When they get sick they don't have to worry about hospital bills. When their children go to college, they have the study-now-pay-later program. When they retire, they get a monthly pension sufficient to meet their needs. Because of the good life in these prosperous countries, there are no rebel groups.

What is noticeable in these prosperous countries is the planning, coordination, cooperation, industriousness and diligence of their people. They are like ants with one goal, one direction and indefatigable spirit.

On the other hand, most of the Filipinos are ignorant about the mechanics of industrial corporations. It is the duty of the government to educate our people on this. But most of all, the government must get back the trust and confidence of our people.

Transparency and honesty in the handling of government finances by our leaders will bring back that



confidence. Let our Ombudsman investigate all our officials with unexplained wealth, remove them when found guilty so we can convince our people we are serious about weeding out corrupt public officials. This is a sure way of getting back the trust and confidence we need to create the different industrial corporations we plan to create.

We must harness the talents of our young graduates, train them in the different specialized functions of corporations, after all, we have a lot of unemployed graduates of business management, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and chemical engineering waiting to be tapped to make this nation prosperous.

If prosperous countries can pool their resources together, what is holding Filipinos from doing the same? Is prosperity a possibility? Of course! We only need political will to accomplish this. Together, we can do it.

—DR. ASTERIO G. SAQUING, MD,
Gen. Luna Street, Banggot,
Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

How about these electoral reforms?

HERE are some ideas, which I feel, are potential solutions to our problems:

1. The enactment of a law that will allow only the taxpayers to vote? Those living below poverty line or just hovering above it will not be given ballots in any electoral process. Biased? No! Where does the money of the government come from anyway? Is it from the poor? No! The pedicab drivers, the tricycle drivers, the jeepney drivers do not pay their income but they are voters whom the politicians can depend on for cheap votes. If only taxpayers are entitled to vote, the politicians will have a hard time wooing them or buying them out. On the other hand, if the poor would like to vote, I suggest they try to make good in their business and pay the necessary taxes.

2. The enactment of another law banning the following from running for any seat in government: musical talents, television personalities, including those already in government, and movie artists who have been working as such for four years prior to election. Likewise, elected government officials at the time of their incumbency should not be allowed to appear in any form of media as commercial models for any type of product.

3. The suggested amendments to the right of suffrage, if pursued, might cause a stir among those who would be affected. From the First Family down to the city councilors, the conduct of political campaigns will change radically. Traditional politicians ride on the popularity wagon by sponsoring or even marrying celebrities just to establish "presence." If the politician has a sincere interest in serving the people, he should work on projects that will benefit the people directly.

4. This may be a very dangerous proposition: Draw a line between the military and the civilian authority. Military and police officers should not be allowed to occupy the following positions: President, senator, congressman, governor, mayor, councilor or barangay chairman.

In sum, I strongly suggest that we institute such reforms that will transform politics from being a lucrative business endeavor into one that is not profitable so that opportunistic politicians will simply shy away from it with this thought: "Bakit pa ako magpapakahirap diyan kung wala namang pera diyan?"

—R.G. LIM
BF International,
Las Piñas City

Disability no obstacle in overcoming odds

THIS is an inspired reaction to the PDI column featuring disabled persons who are able to support themselves despite their disability. I am a professional with a disability, a polio victim.

I can say I did quite well in school and though I struggled hard, I was able to finish a career with flying colors. This helped me a lot in landing a job immediately after graduation.

I first taught a sectarian high school in Midway, from 1989-1995. I was challenged to

give my best not only in teaching science but in arts as well. Added to that was my designation as Philippine Military Training commandant despite the other male teachers who wanted the job. Well, that was actually a fulfillment of a dream—to be a military man. Though not a combat assignment, I find fulfillment in training the young prepare for life's real battles.

Since 1996, I've been with the Kidapawan City National High School, working with students in investigatory research, training students in the arts and working hand in hand with the National Drug Education Program co-

ordinator and other school program activities. From my humble beginnings to my present status, I've produced so many professionals who look back to me with pleasant memories. This is the greatest joy and pride I've got—in being part of their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual formation.

Despite my disability. With heaven-made ability nurtured by courage, self-confidence and love of God, disability is not an obstacle to success in life.

—ARNEL CLAY ALCOSABA, Kidapawan City
National High School, Roxas Street,
Kidapawan City

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Kaibigan

"I'm so jealous," Margie Holmes e-mailed me last week after I described how much fun I was having making new friends at a dog training class.

More out of curiosity, I had agreed to drop in at a clicker training session of the Dog Scouts of the Philippines, an animal welfare organization. (Yes, that's their name and I will do another article about them eventually.) I didn't know any of the members but within an hour, as the dachshunds went their merry way chasing and wrestling down Golden Labradors, the dogs' humans were busy exchanging addresses and phone numbers.

Psychologists have found Filipinos are good with small group affiliations. We are quick to make friends and to bond. That was why Margie Holmes was complaining. Based now in London with the apple and orange and mango of her eye, Jeremy Baer, she misses the congeniality of Filipinos, the way people come up to you in the street and hug you like they've known you for ages when really they've known you only from your column. More than a year now in London, she has few new friends; in fact, other than Jeremy, most of the others would qualify more as acquaintances.

Look at the parties we throw. Even the poor will not hesitate to throw a big bash, urging friends to bring their friends, who in turn will drag their friends so the party ends up with all kinds of new networks formed.

Certainly, we're not unique here. I find many Southeast Asian cultures are as quick as we are with striking up friendships, but we add on a Latin flair, treating our friendships with passion. The root *ibig* in "kaibigan" is intriguing, suggesting how intense our friendships are. There's love involved, not quite as deep as the love of *mahal*, but still with connotations that we would die for friends. (Older Filipinos in fact will argue that "ibig" is deeper than "mahal.")

But for all that I've said about Filipino friendships, we also have this phenomenon where a small town in the United States or in Europe, with 10 Filipinos, might have five different Filipino organizations. (Okay, so I exaggerate. Let's say three organizations?) We're notorious for organizational fission, meaning our organizations split easily into two, and then into four and so forth, much like bacteria.

To explain this paradox, we have to go back to our small group affiliations. Perhaps our friendship ties are much too intense. We demand too much of our friends, sometimes adding on feudal notions of loyalty. In a friendship involving mixed age groups, the older ones might demand too much time from younger ones. In other cases, older people, even if "older" means only two or three years' difference, may resent it when younger friends disagree with them on certain issues. Certainly I've found this even in universities, where the notion of "collegiality," of professional cooperation, gives way to feudal notions of seniority and where older faculty members demand nothing short of monastic obedience from

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



the younger colleagues.

There is, too, the danger that we use friendships more for building one's own personal status. Our males especially spend too much time outside the home with different *barkadas*, which are looked at mainly as alliances for business or politics. When friendships have such ulterior motives, they're not bound to last.

I also worry that our friendships and small group affiliations tend to be built on parochial notions of "us" versus "them." We bond by differentiating ourselves from other groups, thinking of ourselves as more special than others by invoking some kind of common denominator and ordering each other to stick to each other, right or wrong: "We're all Bicolano" or "We're all Catholic" or "We're all from UP" or "We're from PMA batch whatever." Among Filipino expats, friendships are built first because we find a *kababayan*, a fellow Filipino. But this eventually begins to narrow down to regional or provincial origins, or to religious affiliations (further broken down into the sects within religions).

In so many words, our friendships are still tribal in nature, and so while they seem intense on the surface, the bonds can be actually shallow, friendships transformed into a building of alliances and connections.

The psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg suggested that as a person moves into mid-life, what's important is not so much the number of friends than the quality of friendships. We need to value the intimacy, rather than the intensities, of friendships. Margie and many of my closest friends are actually people I rarely see, yet when we do meet up it's always easy picking up almost like we'd just been together yesterday.

With intimate friends, the most cherished encounters are rarely verbal. There are the times when we break out in wild jubilant dancing as we share good news, and times when we just sit in silence, knowing this is the most appropriate way to extend comfort, encouragement, inspiration. Sometimes, too, the silence says it all, as in, "I am so angry with you" or "Do you really expect me to go out with you if you wear that?"

It's time we learn to emphasize that it's not the number of friends we have that counts, but the bonds that start out with common interests but grow with an appreciation of, and respect for each person's individuality. Friends aren't there to mold in our image. They're there, a mirror to ourselves and to humanity, showing how much is to be gained from the friendships that come among the most different of people.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

1,000 villagers feared killed in Liberia massacre

COMPOUND NUMBER ONE, Liberia—Liberia's government and rebels traded charges on Sunday of violating a peace deal, and state radio accused rebels of committing a massacre, quoting one source as saying about 1,000 people had died.

The reports of the massacre in Nimba County, far from the capital Monrovia, could not be immediately confirmed. Nor was it clear when it might have occurred.

"There has been a massacre in Bahn, Nimba County, by Model rebels," the Liberia Broadcasting System reported, referring to the smaller of the West African nation's two rebel factions. It quoted a VHF radio operator saying around 1,000 people had died.

Security sources in Monrovia said they had reports of many people killed during fighting in the area, but said fighting there involved the other larger rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

Bahn is a some 240 km north-east of Monrovia.

Rebel officials could not be reached for immediate comment. Government ministers reached

by Reuters said they had not heard the reports of the massacre, which are likely to put added strain on a peace agreement signed last week in Ghana.

Government forces and LURD fighters accused each other of keeping up attacks on each other's positions at another location some 50 km west of Bahn, in violation of the accord.

The accord signed by both sides last Monday was designed to end 14 years of bloodshed, but although violence around Monrovia has been reduced, clashes have continued elsewhere.

Thousands of civilians fled toward Monrovia on Saturday after gun and mortar fire near the rebel-held second city of Buchanan, and government forces reported more clashes on Sunday.

"They came to attack us... this morning... They are trying to

push me from here, but we're not going to move," said Gen. Kay Friday, 23, government commander in the Compound Number One area, some 80 km from Monrovia.

Friday said the attackers, numbering 15 to 30, wore the red T-shirts of the Model rebel faction which holds Buchanan.

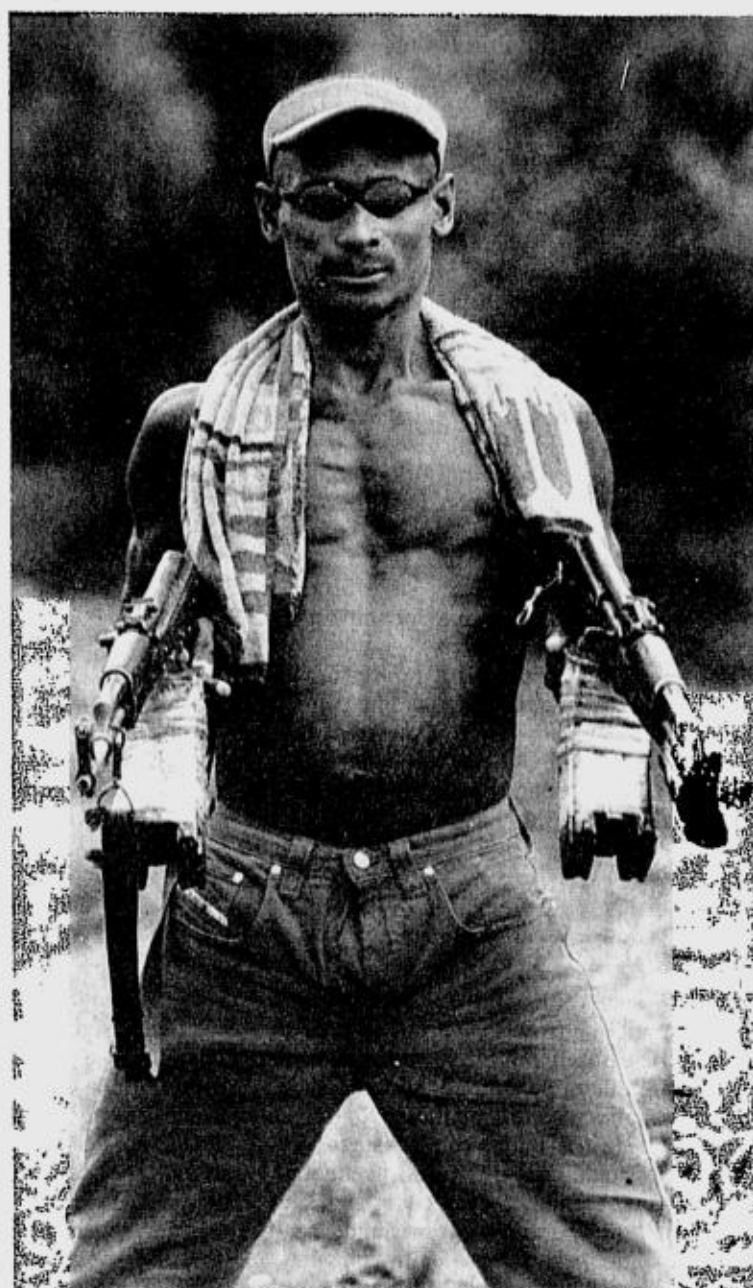
As Friday spoke, a fellow soldier sitting behind him smoked a marijuana cigarette and blew smoke into the mouth of a tiny black-and-tan puppy. Shortly afterward a gun shot rang out and the soldiers said they had killed another dog to eat it.

Villages by the potholed road from Monrovia to Compound Number One stand abandoned.

By Sunday, the flow of refugees along the road had dried up, but the calm was shattered when five US helicopters roared past toward the port city of Buchanan.

Col. Theophilus Tawiah of the West African peace force Ecomil said the helicopters were carrying out reconnaissance in preparation for peacekeepers to move into the area.

Reuters



LIBERIAN RAMBO—A government soldier poses with his AK-47's close to Fire Stone, Liberia, about 100 km from Monrovia, after an earlier battle against a group of rebels Aug. 24.

AP

US crime hit 30-year low in 2002

WASHINGTON—Crime in the United States fell to the lowest level in 30 years in 2002, continuing a decade-long downward trend, the US Justice Department said Sunday.

The figures compared 44 million violent and property crimes in 1973 with the 23 million reported last year, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) said. The decline was seen in every category of crime.

Violent crimes fell from 10.5 million incidents in 1993 to 5.3 million in 2002, and the rate of violence for people 12 and older saw a similar drop—from 50 victimizations per 1,000 people of that age range, to 23.

Crime against property was also relatively lower, falling from 319 crimes per 1,000 households to 159.

Rape or sexual assault was down 56 percent, while robbery was down 63 percent, and aggravated assault down 64 percent.

Assaults without a weapon or any serious injury fell by 47 percent, household burglary fell by 52 percent, and motor vehicle theft was down 53 percent.

The decline in violent crime was experienced by all demographic groups, BJS said. But persons historically most vulnerable to violent victimization—males, blacks and youths—were still targeted at higher rates than people in other categories in 2002. AFP

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TOYOTA

Israel to 'liquidate' all Hamas militants

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israel killed four Hamas militants in a missile strike, declaring all Hamas members legitimate targets for "liquidation" as part of its response to a deadly suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

With Palestinian leaders stuck in a power struggle over control of their security forces, Palestinian officials warned that the airstrike would undermine efforts to rein in militants—a key requirement in a fading US-backed peace plan.

In Gaza City, witnesses said Apache helicopters fired at least three missiles at a group of armed men sitting near a crowded beach front Sunday evening, killing four members of Hamas' military wing and wounding more than a dozen bystanders.

Some of the victims were decapitated by the assault, which took place just 100 yards from the Gaza City office of Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

"The first missile hit the car, four people fled the car and then three more missiles were fired at them...it was difficult to look at the scene," said Abdel Salam Abu Askar, a Palestinian journalist and eyewitness.

Israeli security officials said they had

been tracking one of the dead, Ahmed Aishtawi, for some time. One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Aishtawi was a top operative who had planned and executed attacks in Gaza and the West Bank.

A Hamas spokesperson said Aishtawi was the leader of a unit that had pioneered the firing of homemade rockets into Israel and at Jewish settlements in Gaza.

Militants regularly fire the crude rockets—as well as mortars—out of northern Gaza, but rarely hit their targets. On Sunday, a rocket with a longer range than the usual projectiles, landed harmlessly on a beach seven km from the Israeli city of Ashkelon.

With Palestinian authorities failing to stamp out such attacks and arrest militants following Tuesday's bus bombing, which killed 21 people, including six children, Israeli officials said there was no alternative to a military campaign.

Since then, Israel has swept into West Bank cities, searching house-to-house for fugitives and weapons and sparking clashes with gunmen. Dozens of tanks and armored vehicles have gathered at the Gaza border, apparently ready for an order to raid the coastal strip. AP



AN ISRAELI soldier checks his tank's canon near the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip Aug. 24. Palestinian security forces began closing down smuggling tunnels in the Gaza Strip in an effort to halt the rising tide of violence that has jeopardized the US-backed 'road map' to peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. REUTERS

2 more US soldiers killed in Iraq; toll now 275

BAGHDAD—When US President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 138 American soldiers had died, in fighting or by accident. Nearly four months later, the death toll has nearly doubled, making it clear that keeping the peace and rebuilding the country will cost far more American lives than winning the war.

The US military reported the deaths of two more soldiers on Sunday raising the US death toll to 275, of those, 137 occurred in the 117 days since May 1. A guerrilla war has pushed the number of US soldiers killed in combat since Bush's declaration to 65.

With the next death of an American soldier the toll from major combat and the toll post-major combat will be equal.

"We knew all along that post-combat operations would be equally hazardous, but in a different way," said US Maj. William Thurmond, spokesperson for Coalition command in Baghdad.

During the initial combat stage, US troops' main enemy was conventional soldiers, but now they're being attacked by guerrilla fighters—at times in densely populated, urban areas, Thurmond said.

Guerrilla fighters try to ambush soldiers by firing rocket propelled grenades, Kalashnikov rifles and detonating roadside bombs. The attacks come on average of every two hours. Combat continues for US troops, Thurmond said, but their added role as peace keepers means they can no longer use the full range of American military might.

"Now we have to be effective militarily but we also have a responsibility to protect the people," Thurmond said. "We can't indiscriminately use the firepower at our disposal."

As the US death toll climbed over the weekend, Bush stepped up his campaign to persuade more countries to send troops to Iraq and join the US-led Coalition.

Britain, America's biggest ally in Iraq, suffered new losses of its own Saturday after three of its soldiers were killed and one was seriously wounded in an attack in the southern city of Basra, the British military reported. The deaths brought the number of Britons killed to 48—10 of them in combat since May 1. Denmark's military has also reported one death.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

warned Friday that the United States' attempts to bring in soldiers from other countries to bolster its troops were likely to fail unless Washington agrees to a UN-authorized force that shares decision-making with Coalition forces.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on a visit to the United Nations on Thursday that the United States would not cede any military power as France and other nations have demanded.

Republicans and Democrats alike say Washington should reconsider its troop strength following the unrelenting ambushes and a series of sabotage attacks on the Jordanian Embassy, oil export pipelines and water lines in Iraq culminating in the Tuesday's truck bombing at UN headquarters. AP

Bush so far in the clear over Iraq, but not his allies

PARIS—While the two governments that most staunchly supported the United States in the Iraq conflict face tough questions into allegations they "sexed up" the case for war, President George W. Bush is under no such pressure from Congress.

In Britain, a long-running political drama will intensify this week when Prime Minister Tony Blair and defense Secretary Geoffrey Hoon appear before a special legal inquiry into the presumed suicide of government scientist David Kelly.

Kelly was at the heart of allegations that Blair's department exaggerated a statement to parliament about the reasons for going to war, including inserting a clause that Saddam Hussein could strike with weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes.

The case has been highly damaging for Blair, and commentators in the British press said Hoon is fighting for political survival.

In Canberra, a former intelligence official accused the Australian government of misleading the public by "dishonesty" over the accuracy of intelligence reports.

On the other hand, the US Congress has not acted on allegations that Bush included a false report about a supposed uranium-acquisition program by Iraq in his State of the Union address in January.

But the intelligence and armed forces committees in Congress did hold hearings on the intelligence lapses and whether Bush was given good information on Iraq's weapons.

The Republican majority in Congress has refused to establish a special commission to investigate the allegations that the administration manipulated intelligence reports to justify the war.

According to Joe Lieberman, a Democratic candidate for president, Bush broke "a basic bond of truth" with the American people by inserting false and misleading information.

But Bush, who said his speech was cleared by intelligence services, has had to face nothing more politically dangerous than a news conference.

His closest ally, Blair, on the other hand, while adept at fending off questions in parliament, faces an independent judicial inquiry headed by a feisty judge that has already shone a great deal of light on the inner workings of British government.

Hoon will appear before the inquiry, headed by Lord Hutton, on Wednesday, followed by Blair on Thursday.

Kelly was found dead with a slit wrist after Hoon's office revealed he was the likely source of allegations that senior officials, including Blair's media chief, Alastair Campbell, had overridden the reservations of intelligence services and exaggerated the case for going to war. At the same time, Hoon's department has been fending off criticism about the way Kelly's name was made public.

The inquiry has already heard evidence that Blair's office authorized a "substantial rewrite" of the government's dossier on Iraq after the prime minister's chief of staff complained it did nothing to demonstrate a threat, let alone an imminent threat.

In Canberra, David Wilkie, an ex-intelligence officer who resigned over the war, said Prime Minister John Howard's office "sexed up" the intelligence reports that were offered to justify going to war against Saddam Hussein.

"Sometimes the exaggeration was so great, it was clear dishonesty," Wilkie told a parliamentary inquiry.

He said information was going from the intelligence agency to Howard's office "and the exaggeration was occurring in there, or the dishonesty was occurring somewhere in there." Howard told Wilkie to "stop slandering decent people." In other countries, the questioning has been less intense. Nevertheless, some of the governments that supported the United States in Iraq during the war or subsequently are treading in a political minefield. AFP



MUKHLIS, also known as Ali Gufron, shouts "God is Greatest," after prosecutors read their demands at his trial in Denpasar, Bali on Aug. 25. REUTERS

Another death sentence sought in Bali trial

DENPASAR, Indonesia—Indonesian prosecutors on Monday urged judges to sentence Islamic militant Mukhlis to death for authorizing, planning and funding the Bali bombings which killed 202 people last October.

It was the third death sentence they have requested for the worst terror attack since Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States.

Judges have so far passed one verdict in the series of trials, sentencing Mukhlis' younger brother Amrozi to face a firing squad.

"There is nothing that can alleviate the sentence... the defendant has never regretted his actions and even felt correct and satisfied," prosecutor Putu Indriyati told the judges in Mukhlis' case.

Indriyati told the court that Mukhlis has been proven guilty of engaging in terrorism and possessing weapons and

explosives. Judges have yet to pass a verdict on him.

Mukhlis raised both hands and sighed when the death demand was made. Australian and Indonesian spectators, including some families of victims, applauded loudly. The blasts killed 88 Australians.

Police say Mukhlis is an operations chief of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the al-Qaida linked regional terror group blamed for the Bali blasts and for a string of other bloody attacks.

JI's motive in bombing two nightclubs packed with Western tourists on the resort island was to avenge attacks against Muslims in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Mukhlis, also known as Ali Gufron, has said he has no regrets over the bombings "because the Jews led by the United States and Israel have already declared war against Muslims."

Amrozi was sentenced to death on Aug. 7 but is appealing. Prosecutors have also sought a death sentence for the bombing's alleged field commander Imam Samudra, who will hear his verdict on Sept. 10.

Calling the bombings a "heinous, immoral and savage" act, Indriyati said that even capital punishment "will not be enough to punish the actions of the defendant."

Reading a 125-page sentence recommendation along with other prosecutors, he described Mukhlis as a cunning defendant who lied to cover up his own involvement and that of others in the attack last Oct. 12.

Prosecutors said the testimony of 35 witnesses showed the defendant had taken part in planning the attack and had attended several preparatory meetings. AFP

Diggers find Hindu temple under India mosque rubble

LUCKNOW—Indian archaeologists in a report to a court Monday claimed they found the remains of a Hindu temple below the surface of a mosque razed by Hindu zealots in 1992, a lawyer told AFP.

Lawyer Ranjana Agnihotri, contesting Muslim claims that the now-erased mosque was built on undisputed land, attributed her claims to the final four pages of a lengthy report filed to the court here by national archaeologists.

"The last four pages of the conclusive part of the report describes a 10th- or 11th-century structure that indicates a temple existed in the excavated site," she told AFP in Lucknow, where the court is expected to unveil the report later Monday.

The 1992 razing of the Babri mosque sparked off nationwide Hindu-Muslim

riots that left more than 2,000 people dead and the emotive issue later turned into the electoral plank of the country's ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party.

Hindus believe the Babri mosque was built in the 16th century after razing a temple to their mythological warrior god Rama in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

The excavation was ordered by a court in northern Lucknow city to get to the roots of claims of rightwing Hindu groups that a temple predated the Babri mosque in the pilgrimage town of Ayodhya.

Agnihotri declined to reveal how she had gained access to the documents kept under judicial lock and key.

The Archaeological Survey of India handed over the sealed report Friday to the Lucknow High Court. AFP

Ex-priest's jail death probed

BOSTON—Prosecutors investigated on Sunday how a convicted murderer said to bear a grudge against homosexuals managed to strangle fellow inmate John Geoghan, a pedophile priest at the center of a church sex abuse scandal, inside one of Massachusetts' most secure prisons.

Geoghan was apparently killed by Joseph Druce, 37, Worcester County District Attorney John Conte said on Saturday, declining to say how he was choked to death. An autopsy is planned for Monday and murder charges will be filed.

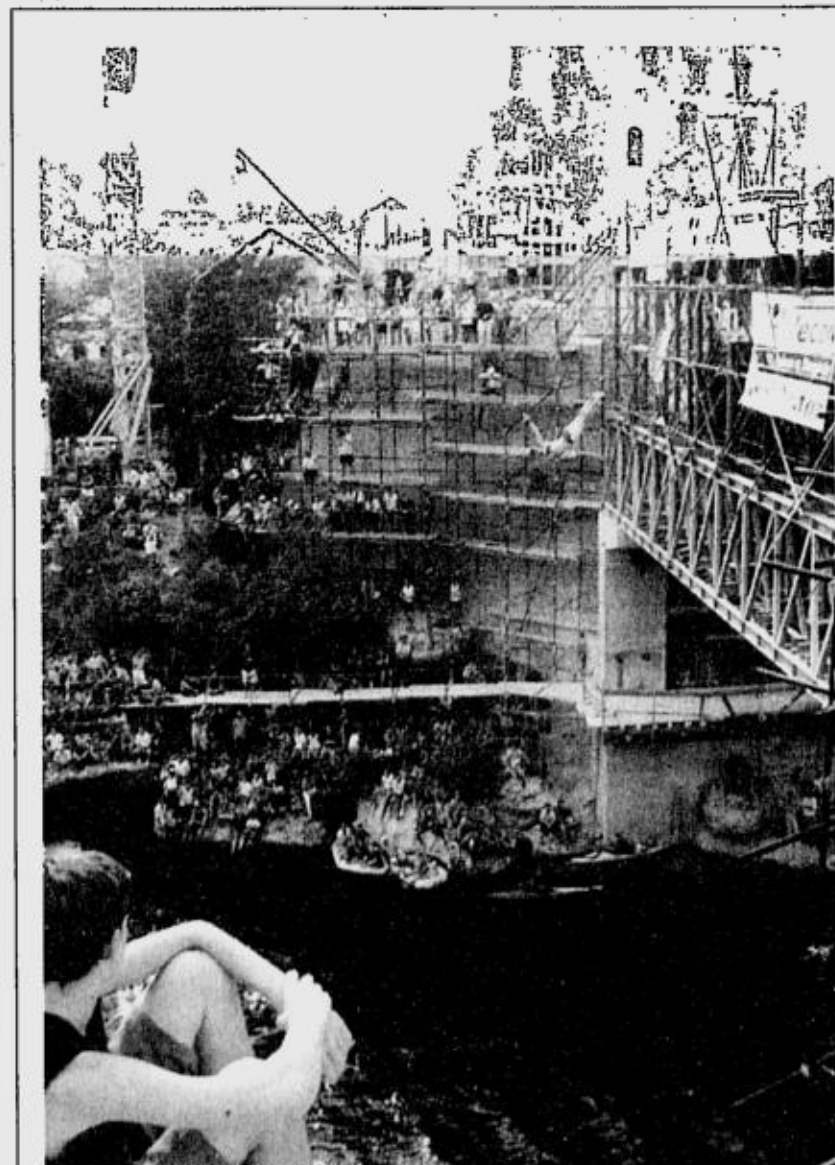
The Washington Post reported in Monday editions that Geoghan was followed into his cell just after lunch by Druce, who bound and gagged him before strangling him with a bedsheet, according to a union representative for prison guards.

Druce jammed the electronically operat-

ed cell door to prevent guards from opening it, tied Geoghan's hands behind his back and gagged him, The Post said. He then repeatedly jumped from the bed in the cell onto Geoghan's motionless body, according to the account by Robert Brouillette, an executive of the Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union.

The 68-year-old defrocked priest, who was serving a sentence for groping a boy while they were swimming, was a central figure in the sex scandal that sent shock waves through the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and abroad.

His prosecution helped uncover a string of pedophile cases that forced Cardinal Bernard Law to resign last year as leader of the Boston Archdiocese, home to more than 2 million Catholics and the emotional heart of the Church in the United States. Reuters



BRIDGE TOO HIGH

A man jumps off the newly rebuilt arch of "Stari Most" (The Old Bridge) during the traditional diving competition in the southern Bosnian town of Mostar Aug. 24. Diving competitions have been traditionally held here every year since the bridge was built 437 years ago. The bridge was destroyed during the war in Bosnia between 1992-1995 and is currently under reconstruction. REUTERS

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Bidding technicalities seen by senator reason for untouched AFP funds

BAGUIO CITY—Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines has not yet touched the P5-billion fund that has been set aside for its modernization program.

"There is no excuse that they will not use this. It has been sitting for so long. I think they have problems with technicalities in the bidding process but they really have to use it soon," Villar told reporters on Saturday. The senator was here on Saturday to attend a medical mission organized by his office.

On Friday night, President Macapagal-Arroyo, during a meeting with Philippine Military Academy officials and cadets at Fort Del Pilar here, called for the organization of a task force for procurement reforms in the AFP.

The task force will be composed of military officers "known for their integrity and incorruptibility."

"We are setting up a fastidious selection and screening process to box out unscrupulous contractors. We will modernize the system so that discretion can be scaled down and

accountability increased," she said.

Villar said the Senate would take a closer look at the AFP budget.

He, however, said that senators would not interfere with the budget of the Philippine Military Academy, despite criticisms that the military training school has become a training ground for coup plotters.

Villar also said the Senate would work for an increase in the PMA budget to modernize military training.

"They need to have the latest equipment, particularly in IT (information technology) to prepare them for more advanced training," he said.

He said the P500-million annual budget of the PMA is just a small chunk of the AFP budget.

Villar called for the increase in the AFP budget to fund the basic needs of soldiers like housing, medicine and food.

The group of mutineers who occupied Oakwood Premier in Makati accused top military and defense officials of corrupt practices, including selling government-issued ammunition to Moro guerrillas. **Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Elders urge peace zone in entire Mt. Province

BAGUIO CITY—Elders of Mt. Province are clamoring for the declaration of the whole province as a peace zone, after this month's military operation that claimed at least 10 lives from both the military and the New People's Army.

Lynn Madalang, executive director of the Ebgan and one of the nongovernment organization representatives at last week's dialogue in Bontoc, Mt. Province, said the elders wanted to replicate the peace zone experience of Sagada for the other towns.

The dialogue was initiated by Mayors Louis Claver of Bontoc, Thomas Killip of Sagada and Estanislao Fagto of Sadanga and Vice Gov. Anthony Wooden.

It was attended by tribal and

religious leaders from Bontoc, Sagada, Sadanga and Barlig towns, which were targeted for military operations in retaliation for the killing of eight soldiers by NPA rebels in the province since July.

The military operation was participated in by at least 500 soldiers and reinforced by two attack helicopters. But the operation was suspended during the dialogue.

According to Madalang, Supt. William Aspilán, Mt. Province police director, did not attend the dialogue but sent an emissary who said that the military would abide by the decision of the elders.

During the dialogue, Killip shared the experience of Sagada

during its turbulent years in the 1980s and early 1990s when many residents fled because of the incessant fighting between government soldiers and NPA rebels.

Sagada was declared a peace zone where combatants from both groups were not allowed to enter the town and fight each other.

The issue of poverty in Sagada, cited as the main root of the insurgency, was also addressed by a waterworks project and other aids for livelihood to the people. The town won a National Galing Pook award for the peace zone experiment.

Madalang said the elders had asked to talk to both the military and NPA to bring them to a peace

dialogue and pull out their troops.

Another group was also asked to find the implementing rules for the adoption of the peace zone policy for Mt. Province.

Three peace zones had been established in the Cordillera in the early 1990s. The so-called "zone of life" in Tabuk, Kalinga, did not actually prosper because there were no mechanisms to deal with tribal conflicts there.

The peace zone in Malibcong, Abra, was beset by graft and corruption in the local government.

Only Sagada was able to maintain its peace zone status and Killip said it depended on the political will of the residents. **Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Barbers says RP becoming Asia's drug capital

BACOLOD CITY—The drug menace in the Philippines is very alarming and if the problem could not be contained in five years, the country could become the drug capital of Asia, Sen. Robert Barbers warned Sunday.

Barbers said that even if authorities had been scoring suc-

cesses in the anti-drug campaign, especially in the dismantling of several drug laboratories, an intensive campaign against illegal drugs is still needed because drug pushers have infiltrated even the remotest barangays in the country.

Barbers said people are now

cooperating with the police in providing information on drug pushers.

He emphasized the need for education campaigns against illegal drugs and for the building of drug rehabilitation centers in every region that should be given priority funding by the President.

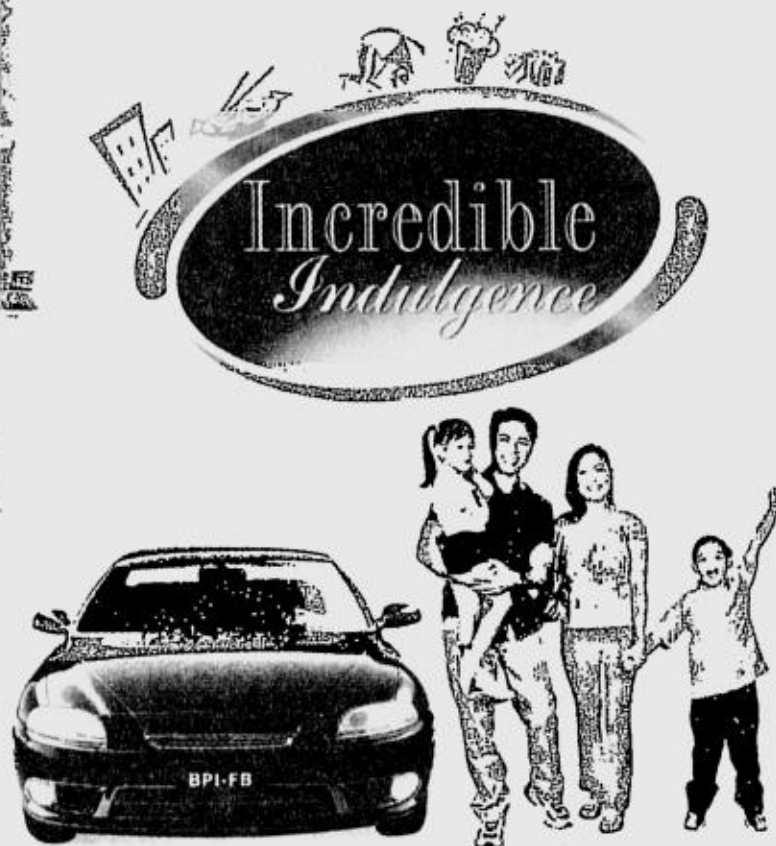
The President has so far allotted P1 billion for the campaign against drugs, said Barbers, who chairs the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

Barbers was in Bacolod City to speak at the Lions Clubs District 301-B Convention. **Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau**

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- Evercrest Golf and Country Club (Batulao)
- Waterfront Cebu City (Cebu City)
- Hotel del Rio** (Hilo City)
- The Marco Polo (Davao)

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8. Clients should choose only one type of Incredible Indulgence Luxury Package from the list in #6 to be availed in only one (1) of the participating hotels as listed in #6.

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No direct link to DND chief in spate of Davao bombings, says Trillanes

THE SPOKESPERSON of the Magdalo group of mutinous soldiers has admitted having no direct knowledge of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' involvement in the Davao bombings.

Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes said during questioning at a Senate hearing on the mutiny that he was not personally aware of Reyes' involvement in the bombings that killed more than 40 people in Davao City.

"For the record, based on our evidence, we have no direct link. The Davao bombings have no direct link to Secretary Reyes," Trillanes said during questioning by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

He said he and his fellow mutineers came up with the conclusion that ranking armed forces and defense officials were behind the Davao bomb attacks based only on the testimony given by Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo that a superior officer ordered Maestrecampo to hurl a grenade at a mosque in Davao City.

Based on transcripts of the Senate hearing, Trillanes said they also linked top defense and military officials to the bombings because of documents on Oplan Green Base with the signature of Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process.

The documents also bolstered the mutineers' suspicion that ranking government and military officials were behind the Davao bombings, Trillanes told the Senate.

"Kinuha namin yan as some sort of propaganda material (We used that as some sort of propaganda material)," Trillanes' testimony went.

But Trillanes insisted that the explosives used for the bombings came from government arsenal.

"Whether the airport bombing was the (work) of the MILF ang point doon, the ammunition and the explosives used there came from the government arsenal," Trillanes' testimony at the Senate went.



EXPLOSION IN DAVAO

It's an explosion of colors that greeted Davao City when it recently celebrated its 18th Kadayawan sa Dabaw feast, overcoming the aftermath of bombings in the city that sent fear into the heart of what was tagged as one of the country's most livable cities.

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IF ELECTED PRESIDENT

Leading by example, Ping's motto in '04

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Sen. Panfilo Lacson vowed to lead by example if he wins as president in next year's elections.

His battle cry: To minimize, if not eradicate, graft and corruption particularly in the higher echelons of the government.

Lacson was here over the weekend as guest speaker in the induction ceremony of the newly-elected officers of General Santos City Eagles Club.

The senator emphasized in his speech that to stop rampant bureaucratic corruption, the president must have the political will and serve as a paragon of virtues.

"On day one of her presidency, Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo in the

presence of her partner and husband Jose Miguel T. Arroyo—declared her war against moral turpitude in government, against lack of transparency and accountability in government and against low efficiency in government. She declared war against poverty and probably against everything that she could ever imagine," an excerpt of his speech said.

The declaration, the former PNP chief said, was nothing but empty rhetoric.

He said no tangible result was seen and the miserable condition of the people has turned from bad to worse.

He lambasted the current administration for its inability

to address the burgeoning huge budget deficit. This, he said, is because taxes collected go to the pockets of crooks in the top echelons of the government.

The widening budget shortfall can be narrowed, Lacson said, if there was an efficient collection of taxes and if money goes to where it is intended.

"This government is flat broke. It has no energy to collect what is due to Caesar. But it has all the energy to collect over and above what is not due to Jose Pidal," Lacson's statement further said.

During his term as PNP chief, Lacson claimed he managed to curb shenanigans in a corrupt-

ridden establishment. And, he vowed to prove it again once he is given a chance to hold the highest position in the land.

He said he was so mad when shortly after he was elected senator, former AFP intelligence chief Victor Corpus and the first gentleman "plagued me before the Philippine Daily Inquirer," even demonizing him as a money launderer, drug trafficker, kidnapper and murderer.

"I lost no time to defend my honor and dignity. I had no use of anyone to speak for me. I spoke my heart out," Lacson said.

However, the senator said he wondered why Mr. Arroyo whom he accused of using the

name Jose Pidal was not showing the same kind and degree of outrage.

"Have you noticed the same degree of outrage from Jose Pidal? There is none. Wala lang. Tagalang makapal si Jose Pidal," Lacson said.

He challenged civil society to come out like what it did when it rallied behind the exposé of Chavit Singson, accusing deposed President Estrada of raking in millions of pesos from illegal sources.

He also challenged the people to look forward to the 2004 elections, saying it is our one last chance to re-chart the destiny of our country. *Aquiles Z. Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army help sought for Negros roads

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz will request the Philippine Army Engineering Battalion to undertake the widening and improvement of roads in remote rebel-infiltrated barangays of Guihulngan, a town some 117 km north of here.

Arnaiz said the improvement of roads in the hinterlands is a way of helping the people in the mountains trade their products in the lowland to improve their economic activities. The governor said the insurgency could not be stopped alone by military solution.

He said improving the lot of the people and bringing the government closer to them, by delivering social services, is an effective strategy of combating insurgency.

He said the provincial board has already appropriated some P2.4 million for the road project connecting the coastal village of Calamba to the hinterland barangays of Tacpao and Sandayao, which are frequented by suspected New People's Army rebels.

The governor said first district Rep. Jacinto Paras, a native of Guihulngan, also promised to set aside some amount to augment the provincial government's appropriation for the road project. Paras, Arnaiz said, did not commit a specific amount.

Arnaiz said he thought of requesting the army engineering battalion to undertake the project because it has the necessary pieces of equipment needed for the undertaking.

Besides, the governor added, the provincial government would not pay for the wages or salaries of the workers because they are paid for by the national government.

Arnaiz also said the provincial government is impressed with the performance of the engineering battalion in other projects. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

CPP spokesman says Mike, Ping raps 'exchange of thieveries'

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has described the ongoing exchange of charges between First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Senator Panfilo Lacson as an "exposed exchange of thieveries."

"The chiefs of thieves in this country are exposing each other's thievery," Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, said apparently in reaction to Lacson's exposé of the P270 million from alleged "campaign contributions and other spurious sources supposedly stashed by the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, in secret bank accounts under the fictitious name of Jose Pidal."



ROSAL

"The chiefs of thieves know each other and the tricks of the trade," Rosal added.

"Estrada, Lacson and the Arroyos are the biggest of thieves



ARROYO

who rob the people of billions, launder and stash their loot using various tricks, such as fictitious bank accounts and dummies," Rosal said in a statement



LACSON

released by the Party Information Bureau.

Rosal said that since the ascent to power of the Estrada and Macapagal administrations, the

country had been ruled by the "puppet-bureaucratic-comprador oligarchs."

"The country has been plundered and robbed by big thieves in the highest positions in the government, police and military," said Rosal's statement.

Rosal said "Arroyo's grand thievery as well as Lacson's own massive loot from having been the biggest thief of the PNP and chief of narco-business in this country and all other heinous cases of plunder by the other big bureaucrats should all be exposed, investigated to the fullest and their perpetrators punished."

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pampanga bishop clears priest accused of sexual abuse

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto on Monday cleared a Catholic priest accused of sexually abusing two boys in November last year.

Fr. Elmer Dizon, the archbishop's spokesperson, said the investigation by the ad hoc committee on clerical misdeeds showed "no established, definitive proof" that Fr. Mark Manabat, parish priest of Minalin, had molested, abused or harassed the two boys, aged 17

and 15 then.

Dizon, who chairs the committee, said the archbishop initiated the investigation last year based on information that reached him.

Aniceto, he added, did not act on any formal complaint by the boys or by their supporters.

Dizon, 44, shared the findings but did not provide a copy of the report to the INQUIRER.

The findings were made public after concerned parishioners

asked the archbishop to remove Manabat from the parish and questioned the delay of the results of the investigation.

The investigation, Dizon said, was "exhaustive" to explain why it took several months. Asked why he did not immediately make public the findings, Dizon said the timing was at the discretion of the archbishop.

He confirmed, though, that no medico-legal examination was

done on one of the boys who filed a complaint for rape, child abuse and sexual harassment against the priest before the Commission on Human Rights here on May 29.

The boy, according to him, belied his claims on the three occasions he was interviewed. The boy filed an affidavit of desistance in June.

The two boys, both members of the Knights of the Blessed Sacra-

ment, had resumed their duties in the parish, it was learned.

According to him, Manabat was a victim of "grudges" and "rivalry" by people in the parish who, in turn, used the boys as a rallying point to demoralize the priest.

Dizon said Manabat had suffered stress and trauma as a result of the controversy. Since Saturday, he had declined requests for an interview. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NPA rebs burn another bus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned a passenger bus along the highway of Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur yesterday morning.

Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, 1st Tabak Infantry Division commander, said the BL Transit Express bus was on its way to Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay from Pagadian City when suspected NPA rebels flagged it down.

The rebels allegedly ordered the passengers to get off the bus before setting it on fire.

Salazar said the rebels also robbed the passengers of their valuables.

The rebels were reportedly led by a certain Commander Benzar. "I have already instructed the 51st Infantry Battalion under Col. Ignacio Obligation to pursue the rebels and conduct pursuit operations," Salazar said.

No one among the passengers was harmed. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops deny cover-up in probe of reporter's killing

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—"We are not protecting anyone." This was the reaction of Laguna police chief Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera amid accusations from media groups that the police are trying to cover up last week's murder of columnist-broadcaster Noel Villarante in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

"We are doing everything to quickly solve this case. We are not protecting anyone or hiding anything," Corvera told the IN-

QUIRER yesterday.

In fact, he said, the special task force created to "look deeply into the case" has made a "breakthrough." But he refused to divulge details.

The task force is composed of members of the National Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Regional Intelligence Office. Corvera himself heads the 12-man investigating committee.

Members of the Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps (CVLPC) ex-

pressed doubts on Corvera's sincerity.

CVLPC head Benjie de Galicia said he suspects that the police are trying to protect some politicians after crossing out Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro and two other provincial board members in the list of possible masterminds of the killing.

"While they have not been able to go deeply into the case, they hastily decided to remove politicians from their list. It's been a week since the crime happened but they have not come up with a

single suspect yet," De Galicia said.

Another media group, the PRO4 Press Corps, expressed hope Villarante's murder case would be solved soon.

Noel Alamar, PRO4 Press Corps president and DZMM reporter, said they trust Corvera.

A lone gunman shot dead Villarante in front of his house in Barangay Duhat in Sta. Cruz, a few kilometers from the provincial police headquarters.

Villarante was a columnist for the Laguna Score and a broadcaster at the Calamba-based

dzJV radio station.

Corvera said Villarante's wife, Jocelyn, already cleared Lazaro of accusations the governor was involved in the killing.

In a statement, Lazaro said her office had put up a P200,000-reward for the immediate arrest of the suspects.

"I vehemently deny that I have anything to do with this cold-blooded murder," said Lazaro.

Villarante was a known ally of Vice Gov. Dan Fernandez, who is said to be running for governor next year.

4 more suspects in van passengers' kidnapping arrested, says cop exec

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Four more suspects in the Aug. 18 kidnapping of three female van passengers in Kiamba town, Sarangani province had been arrested, the police said.

Supt. Willie Dangane, Sarangani police director, identified the captured suspects as Cristobal Tomisi Jr. and the Tumiting brothers Tamano, Tyradel and Toting.

Dangane said the four suspects were arrested during follow-up operations launched by the police and the military against a local bandit gang being linked with the Abu Sayyaf.

The suspects, Dangane said, were former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

They reportedly turned to banditry when they were left out in the cold after MNLF chief Nur Misuari signed a peace pact with the government.

Dangane said kidnapping and robbery charges were being prepared against the suspects.

On Tuesday, the police and military captured Rudy Baroto alias Commander Baroto, leader of the group that robbed a public utility van early Monday in Sitio Puago in Barangay Datu Dani.

After robbing the passengers of cash and personal valuables,

Baroto's group took as hostages Imelda Gravino, 27, her friends Jennifer Guira, 27 and Mary Ann Sasana, 22, all residents of General Santos City.

The victims were on their way to this city after attending the celebration of Kiamba's fiesta.

The hostages fled their captors while the gunmen were busy evading soldiers who were pursuing them.

The Abu Sayyaf was tagged responsible for a series of kidnappings in Mindanao.

The bandits are now believed fleeing government soldiers but so far, they continue to be active in crimes.

Rebel soldiers who staged a mutiny in Makati on July 27 said some government ammunition end up in the hands of the bandits.

Meanwhile, Dangane said the police on Friday also captured the province's most wanted criminal.

Benjamin Saludan, alias Commander Jun, tried to resist arrest, according to Dangane.

Saludan is wanted for a string of crimes, including robberies and drug trafficking.

"He engaged my men in a brief shootout," Dangane said.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ARMM now an economic zone

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is now a business destination that would be able to compete with other developed regions in the country.

This after ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin signed into law the Regional Economic Zone Authority bill making the region investment-friendly.

The signing was made in time for next month's 2nd ARMM Business Council meeting in Marawi City to be graced by President Macapagal-Arroyo and about 700 local and foreign businessmen.

"This is another milestone in the autonomous government's efforts to improve the lives of our poor people," Hussin said after signing the bill into law.

ARMM is composed of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City.

The signing, held at the ARMM Manila liaison office, was witnessed by lawyer Nabil Tan, ARMM executive secretary; lawyer Emma Salmani, ARMM legal consultant; ARMM agriculture secretary Nassar Salmani, Mayor Benjie Bagul of Balindong, Lanao del Sur and 15 regional lawmakers.

Hussin also signed into law a bill creating the municipality of Abdullah Sangki of Maguindanao's second district, making it the 24th town of the province.

Tan said the law would enable prospective traders and investors to include ARMM in their map of destinations in Mindanao.

"This is very timely because ARMM is holding the second business congress, a venue where ARMM business leaders would showcase business destinations and possible business tie-ups with local, regional and foreign traders," Tan told the INQUIRER.

ARMM's REZA law is equivalent to the country's Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

After several months of delayed deliberations due to lack of quorum, the 23-member Regional Legislative Assembly passed the REZA bill Monday last week.

"Finally, the bill has been passed, everybody in the legislative body is hoping it would pave the way for the entry of investments in

the region that can be transformed into job opportunities and development," said Speaker Ismael "Pochong" Abubakar who represents the lone district of Tawi-Tawi.

Describing it as a landmark legislation,

lawyer Tommy Ala, representing Maguindanao's first district, said the REZA law is an added and vital component of the peace and development framework of Hussin. Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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ROUNDUP

5 robbers hunted

DAGUPAN CITY—Police are hunting five men who robbed employees of a bank here of P3.5 million on Thursday. Supt. Noli Talino, city police chief, said the Bank of Commerce's vehicle was about 20 meters from the Export Bank branch here when armed men on board an Isuzu van stopped it, and with guns pointed at the four bank personnel, took two bags containing the money. The robbers sped toward Pogo Grande, about 2 km away, where they abandoned their vehicle, and then transferred to a waiting maroon Tamaraw FX. Talino said he believed the Isuzu van was stolen and its plate number "B" (issued only to members of the House of Representatives), was fake. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 rebels slain

LEGAZPI CITY—At least three suspected New People's Army rebels were killed in a clash with government troops Friday. Col. Pedro Tabangay, commander of the Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion based in Tula-Tula, Ligao City, said the encounter took place in Sitio Divisorio, Barangay Alongong, Libon, near the boundary of Albay and Camarines Sur. The gunfight lasted for about 20 minutes after which the rebels fled to different directions leaving three of their dead companions. Five guns were recovered in the encounter site. The bodies of the unidentified slain men were brought to the Libon police station. Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Nuns' in bank heist

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A syndicate allegedly involved in a string of bank robbery cases in Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog failed to rob a bank despite tricking the guards by dressing two of their members as nuns on Sunday. Police said the vehicle was set to leave and deliver money to an automated teller machine of Asia Trust Bank in Barangay Mayamot when four men and two "nuns" alighted from a silver Honda CRV and a maroon Isuzu Crosswind at around 10 a.m. Noticing something wrong and with the bank's security guards disarmed, driver Allan Apelacio, 27, decided to speed off toward Marikina City. The suspects fired at the bank then fled toward the city proper on board their vehicle. Police found the getaway cars abandoned a few kilometers from the bank. The vehicles are under the custody of the Antipolo City police station. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Endangered vessel

LEGAZPI CITY—The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) warned that it plans to phase out wooden-hulled vessels. Marina-Bicol director Lucy Madarang said the move was based on Administrative Order No. 43, which allows wooden crafts to sail only for 2-4 hours. Affected most are the operators of wooden vessels from Masbate, Catanduanes and coastal areas of Albay, Sorsogon, and Camarines. The move hopes to maintain maritime safety. Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Girl dies in mishap

CAMALIG, Albay—A 13-year-old girl died after she was swiped by a passenger bus on the national highway of Barangay Cabangan on Friday. Police identified the victim as Lovely Moratalla, resident of Barangay Anoling, Camalig. She was crossing the street when a bus being manned by certain Danilo Almada from Naga City hit her. Moratalla suffered serious injuries and was rushed to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH). Doctors pronounced her dead on arrival. Bus driver Almada surrendered to the Camalig police station. A case of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide was filed at the Camalig MCTC against Almada who is now behind bars. Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug rehab center gets GMA funds

MAGALANG, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P2 million for the construction of an additional dormitory at the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center here (CLRDC).

The President said the fund would be taken from the P1-billion budget of her administration's anti-illegal drug campaign.

Opened in March 2000, the center's seven dormitories had exceeded their 120-patient capacity each, according to Senior Supt. Conrado Briton, CLRDC executive director.

Ms Macapagal, after inaugurating the CLRDC new formation center on Saturday, cited the partnership of the government and the private sector in putting up the facility on a 5.3-hectare lot at the foot of Mt. Arayat here.

The Sagip Bie Foundation, led by Arayat Mayor Benigno Espino, the Central Luzon police and local governments in the region had pooled funds, construction materials and volunteers to start constructing the center in April 1999. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Countdown for justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 470 days today since Pagadlan journalist Edgar Dagmalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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Ping's star witness is Mike's messenger

From page A1

The senator also disclosed that Victoria Toh, Arroyo's accountant, and Jose Pidal had a joint account with the Union Bank. "I don't have the documents now. But it will run into millions of pesos," he said. Lacson said the witness would disclose all the details pertaining to the joint account.

Mahusay, one of two witnesses of Lacson against Arroyo, said he was ready to be subjected to a lie detector test to prove his allegations against the President's spouse.

"In my four years with LTA Realty, Attorney Mike Arroyo would order me to deposit and withdraw money amounting to millions in the following bank accounts," Mahusay said.

He identified the bank accounts as those of Lualhati Foundation (073-001283-9k-0.2) in Union Bank-Pereia with Edgardo Manda as signatory; Jose Pidal in Union Bank-Pereia (073001483-6) and in BPI Family Bank Makati-Pereia (661-500497-7) with Arroyo as signatory; Victoria Toh in Union Bank-Pereia (073-001820-9); Kelvin Tan in Union Bank-Pereia (073-001833-7) and in International Exchange Bank Pereia-Legaspi (041-02-0-0017020) and Thomas Toh, Union Bank-Pereia (073-001993-7).

All seven bank accounts have the 8th floor of the LTA Building at 118 Pereia St. in Legaspi Village, Makati, as their address, according to Mahusay.

Mahusay said Victoria Toh would also ask him to withdraw from and deposit money and checks amounting to millions in the bank accounts.

Answering queries from reporters, Mahusay turned emotional when he was asked why he was making such allegations against Arroyo.

"Baka mag-iyakan tayo," he told reporters.

He said he left his job as messenger for Arroyo in March 2002 after he was accused of stealing money and a cell phone in the First Gentleman's office. He said he didn't know the amount of money that allegedly was stolen in the office.

But he said he did not steal anything from Arroyo's office.

Mahusay read a prepared statement in Filipino, saying that he has known Arroyo since he served as chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay

Pansol in Quezon City, which is near La Vista Subdivision, where the Arroyos' home is located.

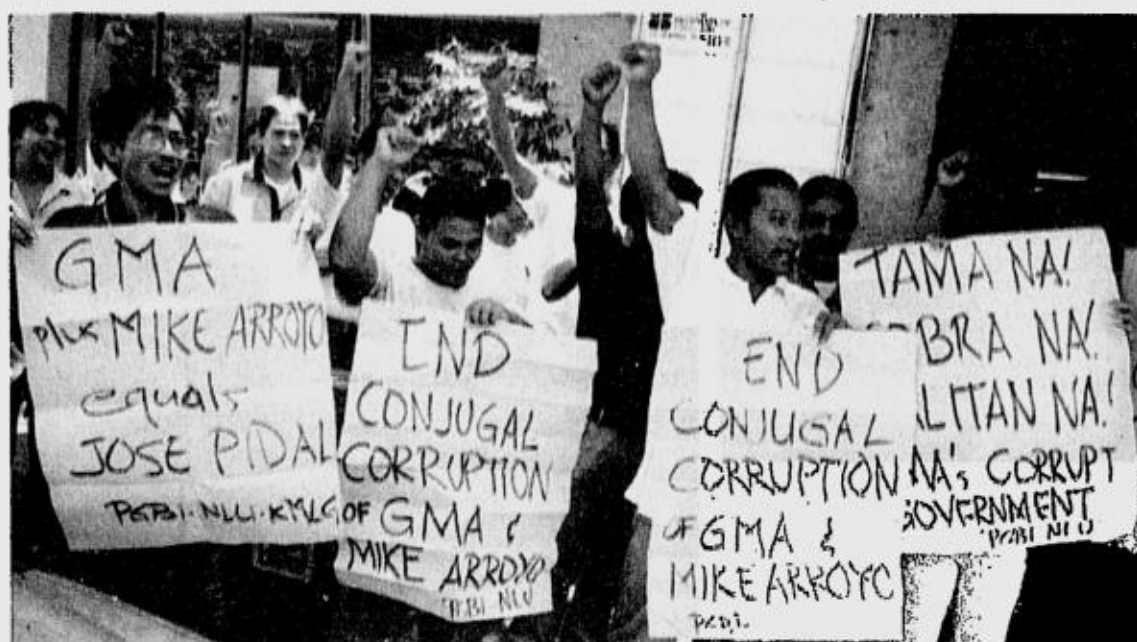
He said he was a frequent visitor to the Arroyo house in La Vista.

Mahusay also disclosed that the First Gentleman and the President stood as one of his sponsors at his wedding on Sept. 14, 1997.

He said he had been working for Arroyo and the President since 1996. He was employed first as a messenger in the office of Ms Macapagal when she was still a senator and a year later, as a messenger in the First Gentleman's office at LTA Realty Inc. at 118 Pereia St. in Makati City.

Asked why Arroyo would ask him to deposit and withdraw money from the accounts, the former messenger said that the First Gentleman had trusted him and that they had been friends for a long time.

On some occasions, someone would accompany him whenever



GUARDIANS who support Sen. Gregorio Honasan rally in front of the LTA Building in Makati City to protest the alleged multimillion-peso bank account of Jose Pidal whom Sen. Panfilo Lacson identified to be First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

he did his errands for Arroyo, according to Mahusay.

He also said Arroyo would sign the checks before him and

sometimes with Victoria Toh around.

Asked whether he had an idea where the money came from,

Mahusay said he would tell all before the Senate committees conducting the inquiry. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Whistle-blower's brother belies claim

By Alcuin Papa

THE CONTROVERSY involving the First Gentleman is pitting brother against brother.

The brother of Eugenio Mahusay Jr., star witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, said last night that his brother could not have seen Jose Miguel Arroyo sign his name as "Jose Pidal" or deposit any checks for the First Gentleman.

"My brother has no capability to do what he said he had done," said Ferdinand Mahusay, Eugenio's older brother, at a hastily called press conference at the LTA Building in Makati City.

Ferdinand said it was his family's conclusion that Eugenio was being coerced or influenced by someone or a group "to say these things."

"He has left the employ of the First Gentleman for a long time now. His job is not as sensitive as what he portrays it to be like making deposits and handling documents. All he does is buy food and answer phone calls," said Ferdinand as tears welled in his eyes.

This was supported by members of Arroyo's staff: Arroyo's secretary Rommel Javier, bookkeeper Rowena del Rosario, and technical assistants Natalia Sal-



FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo presents Ferdinand Mahusay and other witnesses to counter Sen. Panfilo Lacson's accusations against him.

vador and Hermie Salud. They also described Eugenio's claims as "impossible" and "vicious lies."

Ferdinand, who started working for the First Couple in 1993 and is now a deputy administra-

tor for support services at Livelihood Corp., appealed to Eugenio, fondly called "Udong," to be sorry for what he did to the First Gentleman.

"Mahiya ka naman. After all what they (Arroyos) have done for us. They took us in. Bakit gani to ang ginawa mo? We have all been affected. Your family has been affected."

He called on Eugenio to "come back to his family because we cannot guarantee his safety."

Ferdinand, 37, of Balara, Quezon City, revealed that Eugenio's wife had not heard from him for two months now. He said he last talked to Eugenio three weeks ago. Eugenio had told him then that he was in Quezon.

Ferdinand also called on Eugenio "not to be used by Alex Carlos." When pressed by reporters, Ferdinand said Carlos was a businessman who took in Eugenio after he left Arroyo's employ. Carlos owns a farm and fishponds.

Carlos is an associate of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and former president Joseph Estrada, according to Ferdinand.

Asked if there was a link between Lacson and Carlos, Ferdinand said "I can't say that, but if you put things together, you can draw your own conclusions."

Supreme Court dares Lacson to identify 2 'erring' justices

From page A1

however, said over the weekend that the two justices would not be among the 22 people it would be investigating in connection with Lacson's accusation that the First Gentleman amassed millions in campaign contributions to his wife.

The committee said it had no jurisdiction to investigate the charges against the justices because of the doctrine of separation of powers.

At the start of its inquiry, the committee yesterday ordered the opposition senator to provide personal information on the witnesses who can corroborate his allegations.

In a letter, Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the committee, asked Lacson to "submit the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who would support each allegation so that they can be invited to appear in the hearings."

The committee, also known as the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, is the lead body in the Senate inquiry into the Lacson exposé.

Its general counsel, Jose Manuel Diokno, said the inquiry would try to establish two legal issues: Whether the various allegations are supported by competent and substantial evidence, and if so, determine the people who should be held accountable.

No addresses

Senator Arroyo later disclosed that Lacson had already furnished him with a list of the names of 11 witnesses. But Lacson failed to provide the addresses of the witnesses.

"It goes without saying (that he should have provided the ad-

Experts offer to examine Jose Pidal signature

By Christian V. Esguerra

A GROUP of computer experts has volunteered to conduct an independent examination of the controversial Jose Pidal signature.

Members of the Information System Security Society of the Philippines yesterday said they were willing to examine the signature and determine if it had indeed been written by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"We have mobilized a team of experts and comparing the Jose Pidal signature with that of the First Gentleman should be no problem," Ike Señeres, ISSSP member and former chief of the

National Computer Center, told the INQUIRER.

Señeres has tapped ISSSP president Nelson Celis and Abet de la Cruz whom he described as "one of the authentication experts in the country."

He described the 4-year-old ISSSP as a group of "good hackers" frequently tapped by companies to protect the "integrity of their computer systems."

Celis said the ISSSP board would meet soon to determine the technology that would be used in comparing the two signatures.

The Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory earlier announced that Arroyo was not

the one who signed in the Jose Pidal account where he had supposedly stashed millions in campaign contributions.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the First Gentleman's chief accuser, did not buy the PNP findings, claiming the national police would naturally protect Arroyo.

Describing the procedure used by the PNP as "outdated," Señeres said the ISSSP team would use instead the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology, a popular computer-based examination that determines the authenticity of paintings, pictures and currencies.

"Strictly speaking," he said,

"the OCR will not tell you if a signature's fake or not. It will just tell you the degrees of comparison, whether the signatures are 50- or 100-percent similar."

Examiners, he explained, would need to determine a particular "threshold" on which the findings would be based.

Señeres said the standard could be programmed in the computer based on existing policies.

Similarities that fall below 70 percent, for instance, may be deemed unacceptable, he said.

"The threshold would really have to be determined," he said. "But so far, we have no such standard in the Philippines."

dresses). How can you (notify) them without an address?" the committee chair said.

Senator Arroyo said Lacson should present his witnesses first because the burden of proof was on him.

"When we notify the potential witnesses, they are required within three days from notice to submit their affidavits. Only after they submitted the affidavits, can we start the hearing," he said.

Lacson asked that the subpoena be enforced through his office to ensure the safety of the witnesses.

But Senator Arroyo disagreed. "It's not proper because we have to be very strict in the rules ... or we will be (accused) of partiality."

He maintained that Lacson's proposal was against the Senate rules, which mandate that the subpoena be addressed to the re-

spondents.

"As far as the blue ribbon is concerned, we will only serve those people that we can find," said Senator Arroyo.

NBI agents

In the past, his committee could look for the whereabouts of witnesses because two National Bureau of Investigation agents were attached to the committee, according to him. "Those two NBI agents had been pulled out, so we lack (the personnel)."

Asked if the strict adherence to rules could be interpreted by Lacson as a delaying tactic, Senator Arroyo said: "I don't care what he says. He can say what he wants, but for one year he delayed Committee Report No. 237. Perhaps, nobody can accuse me about delaying."

The report, which recommends the prosecution of Lac-

son for links to organized crime, has yet to be adopted by the chamber.

Senator Arroyo said it was unrealistic for his committee to schedule its first hearing this week because the subpoena had yet to be served.

He said the hearings would be done by stages like what happened to the aborted impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"In the trial, we in the prosecution wanted it our way. The Senate acting as an impeachment court, denied the request of the prosecution and insisted that it be by stages. That is why we were able only to go up to Article 2, subsection a," the committee chair said.

Attendance

Senator Arroyo said the First Gentleman could not be com-

pelled to attend the hearings.

"That's entirely up to him. We cannot compel witnesses who don't want to attend. We're not a court. In the impeachment trial, we never asked then President Joseph Estrada to be around. I think that's fair," he said.

But he admitted that the hearing could become "unwieldy" because of the number of respondents (24) and charges (12).

He said the hearing would be "unprecedented" in the history of the blue ribbon committee.

"We never had so many respondents," said Senator Arroyo, who noted that even the impeachment complaint against Estrada only tackled four articles. "But we will be fair in this hearing."

At the Peliciano Commission, a fact-finding panel on the failed July 27 mutiny, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former head of military

Drilon says Senate reflects sharp division after Edsa II

By Michael Lim Ubac

"WHAT can I say?"

Senate President Franklin Drilon was apparently floored yesterday by an accusation that his chamber had become an asylum for political assassins. But he quickly bounced back, rising to its defense.

Since the time of Manuel L. Quezon, the Senate "has always been a platform for presidential challenge," Drilon admitted. "But the Senate continues to be relevant. Its presence ensures a check and balance in government."

Drilon was reacting to yesterday's analysis by INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila on the history of political assassinations "dating back to the Roman empire" attributed to the chamber "as a republican institution."

Doronila said the Philippine Senate, for example, had turned into a "slaughterhouse in which political assassination is being carried out by men cloaked with the toga of parliamentary immunity."

The chamber was being used as a "forum for the ventilation of charges ... that could not pass muster in the courts of justice," he said.

His conclusion: "The (Philippine) Senate has been degraded into an asylum for political hit men and for military renegades who serve as part-senators and who spend much of their time plotting conspiracies to overthrow democratic governments."

Drilon would not speculate on whether Doronila was alluding to opposition Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson. Honasan is facing "mutiny charges, while Lacson delivered a privileged speech last week accusing First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of money laundering."

But pressed to comment on the analysis, Drilon said: "These senators will have to face the electorate at a certain point to answer for their use or misuse of parliamentary privileges."

Senators are not above the law, he said, and surely the people would also pass judgment come election time.

Drilon maintained that the composition of the Senate had largely been influenced by events in the country's social and political spheres and "reflects the sharp division of our people after Edsa II."

intelligence, confirmed that he met with the First Gentleman at the LTA Building.

Corpus visit

During his two-and-a-half-year stint as head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Corpus said he went to the building on three occasions "to update him (Arroyo) on assassination threats on the First Family."

In his Aug. 18 privilege speech, Lacson accused Corpus of receiving from Arroyo a "brown envelope" containing a huge amount of money in US dollars sometime in the second week of July 2001.

"That's far from the truth," Corpus told reporters. The military officer was at the Philippine International Convention Center yesterday to testify before the Peliciano Commission.

He said he went straight to Arroyo to report on the "threats" since he became "friends" with the First Family since he started heading the Isafp in January 2001.

"And there's nothing wrong with being friends with the First Family," he said.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Lacson was all bark and no bite.

Bunye said Lacson should go to court and produce his witnesses there. The senator claims he has two witnesses, with one who was just one foot away when Arroyo signed checks as Jose Pidal. (See Page A1 banner story.)

"It is very important that he goes to court because the courts could make decisions on whether the First Gentleman is guilty or not," Bunye said. With reports from Volt Contreras and Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOUR DIGIT

6 7 3 4
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
3 8 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45

14 16 20 26 29 40

METRO

Shots fired in MMDA clearing

By Alcuin Papa
and Margaux Ortiz

A SIDEWALK vendor was wounded while a government vehicle was damaged on Sunday when gunmen opened fire during a clearing operation of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in Baclaran.

About 40 MMDA personnel aboard dump trucks and a bus swooped down on the sidewalks of Redemptorist Church in Parañaque City to clear the area of illegal vendors shortly after noon.

Violence erupted when vendors started throwing rocks at the government vehicles.

Suddenly, shots rang out. MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the gunfire was directed at their men, but hit their bus parked on G.G. Cruz Street.

Eugenio Bechachino, 43, of Parañaque City was hit in the hip and was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila.

Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez blamed the MMDA men for the shooting. He also ordered city police chief Supt. Rolando Estilles "to pinpoint and arrest" the MMDA member who fired the gun.

The Baclaran area has been a source of tension between the MMDA and Marquez.



YACHT CLUB FIRE: MURDER OR SUICIDE?

A dead man, whom arson investigators believed to be Gonzalo Lita, on Sunday was found with a wire looped around his neck in one of the yachts that had been gutted in a fire at the Manila Yacht Club. Lita was reported missing on Saturday night. Two luxury yachts, each one costing around P10 million, were destroyed and a third badly damaged in the early morning fire. FO3 Emmanuel Gaspar is set to invite the yacht owners for questioning.

ERIK ARAZAS

Makati hit again

By Margaux Ortiz

FIFTEEN heavily armed robbers swooped into the Citibank Center at the Makati Central Business District yesterday afternoon and briefly engaged lawmen in a gun battle in the heart of the country's financial capital.

The robbery which was done with swift and precise movements took only three minutes.

An undetermined amount of cash was taken from the Citibank branch at the ground floor of the building.

It was 3:35 p.m. when two white vans and a dark green Toyota Revo screeched to a halt in front of the Citibank Center at 8741 Paseo de Roxas corner Villar Street.

Suddenly, bonnet-wearing men in military style outfits and armed with .45-caliber pistols, M14 and M16 jumped out of the vehicles and forced their way into the bank, which was already closed.

At gunpoint, some of the suspects herded the security men and some employees to a corner while others went straight to the cash department.

After taking whatever money was at the counter, the suspects ran back to their cars.

However, policemen in a patrol car chanced upon the fleeing robbers. This prompted the suspects to open fire.

Outgunned and outnumbered, the lawmen took cover while calling for reinforcements.

Within minutes, the place was swarming with policemen.

However, by this time, the suspects had driven off toward Gil Puyat (formerly Buendia) Avenue.

According to Makati City police chief Sr. Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, one suspect, who was in charge of watching the security guards, was left behind.

Upon seeing the policemen, the suspect reportedly ran into the building.

Gutierrez said his men virtually let the suspect go rather than risk a hostage situation at the bank.

Citibank retail banking director Patrick Cheng said no one was hurt during the incident.

It was the second bank robbery at the Makati Business District since April 5.

Manila's Atienza sees no logic in Fernando's urinals

By Tarra Quismundo

FOR JULIAN Tongson, it would be convenient if there were urinals all over Metro Manila.

"If possible, they should put urinals on every intersection and street corner," said Tongson, a taxi driver who is on the road 12 hours a day.

The Metro Manila Development Authority began installing pink urinals on sidewalks for people who feel the need to answer nature's call.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza is the most vocal in opposing the urinals, saying the facility encourages bad habit among people.

In a report, MMDA Chairman

Bayani Fernando said that it is a need rather than a habit.

But Atienza doesn't see it that way.

"Of course it is a need, but one must be disciplined enough to look for the proper place to do your need," Atienza said. "I appreciate (Fernando's) initiative, but I do not support the logic."

But Tongson said drivers like him need the MMDA urinals.

"Sometimes you would become sick for trying to hold it in for a long time," Tongson said in Filipino. "And it's inconvenient (for drivers on the road) to have to look for a public toilet."

Atienza said there are public toilets which anybody can use. He

said that comfort rooms in fast-food chains and gasoline stations are also available to the public.

City Engineer Armand Andres said there are at least nine public toilets in Manila. All the public toilets, except for the one at the Lacson Underpass, are maintained by senior citizens who have volunteered to work on the facilities.

GMA has won soldiers' loyalty

THE GOVERNMENT will not charge in court the enlisted men—privates, corporals and sergeants—who took part in the Oakwood Mutiny because they were deceived by their officers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, Armed Forces commander in chief, made the announcement yesterday.

That was a very wise move.

Most of the lowly soldiers who found themselves at Oakwood didn't know what they were in for until their officers called for the resignations of top government officials, including the commander in chief.

As in past coup attempts, the privates, corporals and sergeants in the Oakwood Mutiny were told they were on a legitimate mission. It was too late for them to back out. They were afraid that if they backed out, their superiors would order them shot on the spot.

Whoever advised the President to be lenient on the enlisted men must either be a military officer who understands the little soldiers' predicament or a civilian who knows the workings in the military.

The military culture dictates that a subordinate should follow an order from an immediate superior without question. The immediate superiors of the low-ranking Oakwood mutineers were the lieutenants and captains. The President as commander in chief was too remote a figure to the military totem pole.

For understanding the predicament of the lowly soldiers, GMA has earned the respect and loyalty of the AFP rank and file.

But the officers who misled the enlisted men in the Oakwood Mutiny should be punished severely. There is no room for compassion for these erring officers.

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

If the GMA administration became lenient towards the mutiny leaders it would encourage more coup attempts and mutinies.

Because the Aquino and Ramos administrations were soft on the plotters of the failed coup, one of them even became a senator of the republic.

The officers in the past coup attempts were reinstated and promoted. Some are now holding key positions in the military.

And the enlisted personnel? Many of them were dismissed from the service or demoted in rank. Those who were taken back after being kicked out had a hard time getting promotion.

I met a Marine master sergeant who was demoted to private for taking part in the 1989 coup attempt. He felt bitter because his superiors were not punished.

In the aftermath of the failed coup attempts during the Cory administration, most low-ranking soldiers would refuse to join any act that would rebel against higher authorities.

They have learned their lesson. They were left holding the bag by their superior officers who should have defended them. After all, they were just following orders from their superiors.

As one sergeant-participant in the 1989 coup attempt put it: "Bakit ako sasali ulit sa coup? Wala naman akong nahita doon (Why should I take part in another coup? I got nothing from it)."

METROBRIEFS

Streets still unsafe

AMID statements from the police that Manila's streets are safe, vendor Otto Mimao Allani on Sunday was shot dead as he slept on the street in Quiapo. Mimao Allani, 20, had been sleeping on a makeshift bed in front of his store on Bautista corner Arlegui streets when a man went up to him and shot him with a .45-caliber gun at 11 p.m., police said. Allani, who had been sleeping face down, took most of the shots in the back. *Leila Salaverria*

Elderly robbed

THREE robbers on a Honda Civic on Sunday hit an elderly couple in their house in Bonita Homes, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina, police said. Lawyer Rodolfo Flores, 75, and wife Estelita, 72, were on their way to mass at 5:30 a.m. when the suspects, on board a red sedan (ULK 381), pulled up in front of them and announced the heist. The couple lost a watch, diamond ring and cash in different currencies. *Luiga del Puerto*

Youth murdered

EVEN the young are not spared. Three teenagers yesterday morning stabbed to death Mark Joseph Balili, 15, in Manila. Police said Balili, of Sevilla Street, Moriones, Tondo, was on his way home with three friends when a suspect, identified only as Aries, appeared and hit Recto on the head with a hard object on Lualhati Street, Tondo. Aries then took out a knife and stabbed Balili, while the suspect's companions acted as lookout. The three suspects, aged 16 to 19, are still at large. *Leila Salaverria*

Drug vendor

A VENDOR on Sunday night yielded a hundred grams of shabu worth P200,000 in Luneta, Manila. Abdullah Tangutim, of Basco Compound, Port Area, was arrested after an undercover lawman bought shabu from the suspect on Katigbak Road, Luneta at 7:30 p.m., said Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr. Tanguti, who had been under surveillance for some time, arrived in Luneta on board a maroon Toyota Revo prior to the bust, Pedrozo said. But Tanguti denied this, saying he commuted to Luneta. *Leila Salaverria*

V. Ahillion; 62

VERGEL Ahillion, a consistent scholar in high school and college, will be interred at the Mandaluyong Municipal Cemetery this afternoon.

A native of Riverside Vergara, Mandaluyong, he later settled in Villaluz, Angono. He passed away on Friday at age 62.

GMA store on wheels runs over pedestrian

THE POLICE are now looking for the driver of a "Tindahan ni Gloria" truck that hit Rommel Asana yesterday morning in Commonwealth, Quezon City.

"Tindahan ni Gloria," which replaced the "Erap Rolling Store" of former President Joseph Estrada, sells basic commodities to poor families at cut-rate prices.

P03 Venus Ormita of the Central Police District said the victim was crossing Commonwealth

Avenue near the corner of Ilang-ilang Street at around 9:30 a.m. when the speeding truck hit him. Asana suffered severe head and bone injuries, police said.

But instead of stopping and helping the victim, the driver of the truck sped off. Concerned residents took the victim to the Malvar General Hospital.

Asana is now recuperating at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said. *Tina Santos*

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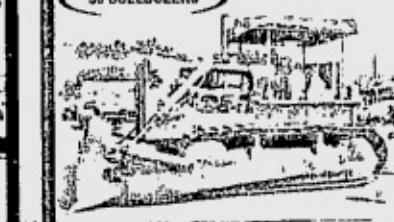
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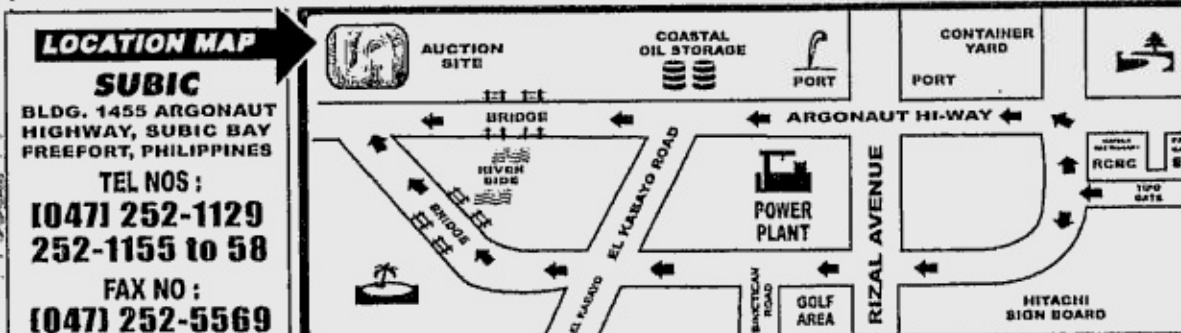
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E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

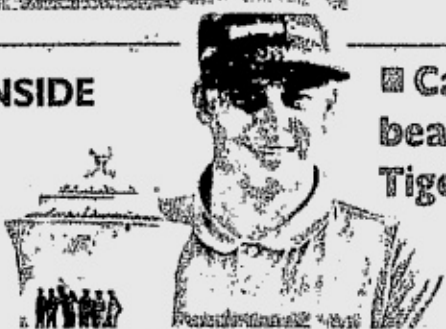
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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Mindanao
EAGA champs
/A20



■ Calm Clarke
beats off
Tiger charge
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Puentevella wants PSC lifestyle check

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A FORMER commissioner wants a lifestyle check on top officials of the Philippine Sports Commission who move around in luxury cars.

Now the chair of the House committee on youth and sports, Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday said he would ask either the Malacañang fact-finding task force or a special audit team from the Commission on Audit to make the inquiry.

Reacting to the column of Recah Trinidad which came out in the INQUIRER Monday, Puentevella said the Malacañang



PUENTEVELLA

as commissioner from 1996 to 2002, emphasized he was merely giving the PSC officials a forum to clear their names.

"I will stand by them if they are clean," said Puentevella.

task force is the same body that recently conducted lifestyle checks on officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

But the Balcol congressman, who served as commissioner from 1996 to 2002, emphasized he was merely giving the PSC officials a forum to clear their names.

"I will stand by them if they are clean," said Puentevella.

He added he would ask probers to give the concerned PSC officials due process and protect their identities unless the fact-finding body can file a case against them with the Ombudsman.

"There is nothing wrong in looking into their lifestyle which I have heard before, before it came out in the column (Trinidad's Bare Eye)," said Puentevella.

The column mentioned the gleaming SUVs and brand new cars parked in spaces reserved for PSC officials in front of the PSC administrative building at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Observers said the presence of the new vehicles won't escape Puentevella's attention because he also holds of-

fice at the sports complex as president of the weightlifting association.

The PSC chair receives about P25,000 a month, while commissioners and consultants get about P20,000 monthly. Commissioners also enjoy a yearly P100,000 representation allowance each.

Puentevella said that when he was still with the PSC, a commissioner gets unlimited gas allowance if he drives his own car. Otherwise, the PSC provides transportation with limited gas privileges.

PSC chair Eric Buhain can't be reached for comment while his spokesperson didn't return text messages for an interview.

While PSC officials come and go with every change in the administration, it is only now that brand new vehicles have almost simultaneously sprouted at the PSC parking lot.

Puentevella

said the PSC gets about P450 million a year from congress and the Office of the President, aside from the help extended by private corporations.

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Stags a win from Final 4; Altas score

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs SBC (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Srs/Jrs)

By June Navarro

FIL-AMERICAN Pep Moore used his height advantage to the hilt as defending champion San Sebastian walloped Jose Rizal, 83-76, yesterday to grab the solo lead in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The 6-foot-7 Moore dominated the shaded lane, barreling in six of the Stags' last 10 points to foil the Bombers and move SSC within a win of entering the Final Four.

The Stags stretched their win streak to four games and stayed on top of the standings at 8-4. They need only to beat the Letran Knights on Friday for a return trip to the Final Four.

Dom Javier and Khil Misa engineered an early breakaway and the Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas held on to win, 67-52, over the Mapua Cardinals in the other senior game.

The Altas improved to 5-7 but they still must beat the Philippine Christian University Dolphins and the Stags to fortify their chances of making the Final Four.

The Cardinals, who trailed by as many as 20 points in the third period, battled back behind Christian Guevarra and Tristan Veranga but lost steam in the closing minutes and dropped into a tie with San Beda at 6-5.

Moore typified the Stags' hunger for a "three-peat" as he banged in 17 points, hauled down 14 rebounds and had five assists.

Moore's exploits had the Stags getting 20 second-chance points as against the Bombers' nine. The Stags also had 19 offensive rebounds in a 49-37 edge off the boards.

Leomar Najorda, last year's Finals MVP, also came up with a double-dou-



JOSE Rizal's Mark Anthony Barboran battles for the rebound with San Sebastian's Leomar Najorda and Clark Moore in their game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMENTO

ble of 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Stags, who put the cuffs on the hot-shooting Marco Paolo Fajardo.

After averaging 30 points during the Bombers' consecutive victories over Mapua and Philippine Christian University, Fajardo was limited to only 12 this time.

The 6-foot Fajardo made only 4 of 12 attempts from the field and wound up with a lone triple out of eight tries.

The Bombers' fifth setback against seven wins dropped them to solo third behind the Stags and the idle Knights (7-4).

Wynjohn Te's triple and a short jumper by Fajardo cut the SSC lead to 67-73, but Moore went to work and towed the Stags to safety, 79-70, with two minutes left.

When the Bombers threatened again at 76-79 with 44 ticks left, Moore scored on a putback off a missed one-handed slam by Nicole Uy

and Chris Baluyot sank two free throws.

Earlier, the Staglets overwhelmed the Light Bombers, 98-84, for their seventh win in 12 games. The Light Bombers fell to 1-11.

Scores:

Second game (Srs)

SSC-R 83—Moore 17, Najorda 16, Baluyot 14, Gonzales 11, Uy 9, Maneclang 7, Vicente 7, Aguilar 2, Lim 0.

JRU 76—Te 19, Santos 18, Attunaga 12, Fajardo 12, Borboran 11, Jorge 2, De Vera 2, Domangcas 0, Lindaya 0, Serlos 0, Nicolas 0.

Quarters: 24-15, 44-22, 65-60, 83-76

Fourth game (Srs)

UPHR 67—Misa 19, Tayer 15, Javier 13, Barnson 8, Cuenco 6, Joe 3, Balboa 2, Botlin 1, Mendoza 0, Aseron 0.

MAPUA 52—Guevarra 12, Veranga 10, Dula 6, Gonzales 5, Sumalinog 4, Salud 4, Martin 3, Cruz 2, Gorospe 2, Del Rosario 2, Co 0.

Quarters: 19-13, 37-22, 50-33, 67-52

Manila Golf, Alabang forge FGL showdown

By Jong Arcano

MANILA Golf Club and Alabang arranged a showdown for the Federation Golf League crown by squeaking past their semifinal opponents over the weekend.

Businessman Jovanni Chuaunsu's chip-in for birdie on the second extra hole of a scramble match with teammate Jojo Guingona powered defending champion Manila Golf past Riviera and into the championship match for the second straight year.

Chuaunsu's spectacular game-winner came after the Riverians had rallied to send the home-and-away match into an extension. Counting the 3-1 result obtained by Manila Golf the previous day, Riviera bounced back with the same score for a 4-4 tally.

Pitted against the feared Riviera duo of Raymond Sangil and Migs Garcia, Guingona-Chuaunsu gained a new lease on life with a huge par save on the first playoff hole before Chuaunsu executed

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MALATE 521 8143	I-AXE MUSIC CIRCUIT/MR. ROXY	BLAZED EVERY FRIDAY OF JULY
NOVALICHES 936 9757	FAT 16 HEADWORKZ	BLAZE EVERY MONDAY OF AUGUST
BIÑAN 849 517268	TIA MARIA'S 0 2 7 VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE
JUPITER 870 4735	RHYTHM ACE 3RD MOVEMENT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS 522 0429	ACOUSTIC NIGHT "DREAMSOUNDS" LIVE MUSIC, KARAOKE	FREE PULUTAN EVERY 2 HOURS OR 5 BOTTLES OF BEER 2:00/4:00/6:00
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Minda EAGA champs

Hosts cop sepak title

STANDINGS	G	S	B
Mindanao	21	24	14
Sabah	11	7	7
Palawan	9	17	14
N. Sulawesi	8	7	7
S. Sulawesi	8	3	3
Brunei	2	2	3
E. Kalimantan	1	0	6

By Dennis U. Eroa

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Mindanao, the land of promise, crowned itself the unofficial overall winner, but the biggest cheers went to the host city as the 3rd BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games came to a colorful close yesterday at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum.

Roy Ocon, a student at the Holy Cross of Davao, won his third gold medal in the 3,000-meter run, giving Mindanao its 21st and last gold medal in this competition featuring Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Filipino athletes from the East Asia Growth Area.

The 19-year-old Ocon also pulled off victories in the 1,500m run and the 800 as Mindanao topped athletes



MEMBERS of the victorious Palawan team in sepak takraw receive their trophy from Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn at the close of the BIMP-EAGA games yesterday.

EGAY MONTANA

with eight golds. Mindanao also ruled swimming with 12 golds and prevailed in women's volleyball.

"I take pride in Mindanao's achievement in this highly successful BIMP-EAGA Games," said Anthony del Rosario, executive vice president and chair of the National Barangay League and Mindanao's head of delegation.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Gov. Joel T. Reyes and PSC Commissioner Leon Montemayor also expressed delight in the success of the Games.

"The Games was a success not only in terms of attendance but in achieving its theme 'Developing a culture of peace, friendship and unity through sports,'" said Mayor

Hagedorn. "Puerto Princesa has once again proven that it can successfully host an international event like the BIMP-EAGA Games."

Like Mayor Hagedorn, Gov. Reyes congratulated Mindanao for emerging on top, adding the meet's success was due to Palawenos sense of unity. Montemayor, for his part, thanked the host for its tremendous support and cooperation.

Competing as a separate squad, host Puerto Princesa-Palawan celebrated no end when its sepak takraw team subdued South Sulawesi, 2-1, in the best-of-three gold medal final at the Mendoza Park.

PPC-Palawan, thus, salvaged third place overall with a 9-17-14

gold-silver-bronze tally. It won seven golds in athletics and one in swimming courtesy of Joebert Pilapil.

Sabah finished second overall with an 11-7-7 haul, while North Sulawesi (8-7-7) edged South Sulawesi (8-3-3) for the fourth spot.

East Kalimantan won its first gold by winning the football finals at the Puerto Princesa Sports Complex.

Montemayor said leaders of the BIMP-EAGA delegation will meet early October to form a sports council which will decide next year's host.

"A bigger Games will be held next year," Montemayor said.

Calm Clarke beats off Tiger charge

AKRON, Ohio—Proven Tiger beater Darren Clarke held off a charging Woods here on Sunday to win the \$6 million NEC Invitational.

The Ulsterman carded a final round three-under 67 to finish 12-under for the championship.

Jonathan Kaye was second, four shots back, David Love third, five back and Woods fourth, six adrift. It was an impressive victory for Clarke, who had begun the day three clear of Woods.

When Clarke picked up three shots in his first four holes thanks to an eagle and a birdie, he had thrown the gauntlet down to Woods, who was the only player challenging early.

Kaye bogeyed two of his first four holes.

Woods, playing the best golf he has played for a long time, reached the turn in two-under as he chased after Clarke, closing to gap to only two shots at one point. But the 34-year-old Ulsterman, looking for his first win for over a year, did not flinch as he went out in 32—three under.



NEC Invitational winner Darren Clarke holds the Gary Player trophy.

REUTERS

Manila Golf . . .

From page A19

the shot of the day—a chip from about 20 feet that rolled dead straight into the hole.

Meanwhile, Alabang hacked out a shocking 4.5-3.5 conquest of eliminations topnotcher Forest Hills to boost its bid for a first ever Fed League title.

King Stehmeier and Rey Escudero, playing scramble, stood their ground after a rules dispute on the 17th hole to escape with a 1-up victory.

The young Stehmeier rolled in a decisive six-footer for par on the 17th and his team kept its poise to secure the win that was all Alabang needed to finish off Forest Hills right in its own backyard.

The Alabang squad motored to Forest Hills holding a 2.5-1.5 lead it built at home. Iggy Claveilla-Rolly Castro (best ball) and Edwin Arcilla-Seve Roxas-Chua (aggregate) halved their matches for Alabang while Raffy Garcia-Eding Hizon took the high-low match for Forest Hills.

Manila Golf and Alabang dispute the title in another home-and-away series this weekend.

"We actually won what I felt was already a lost battle," said Manila Golf captain Arsenic Laurel.

March of favorites

ALL but one of the seeded bets scored straight-set victories yesterday at the start of the JVC Open Badminton Championships at the PSC Badminton Hall at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Defending men's singles champion Ian Pienzenaves and former titlist Kennevic Asuncion led the attack of the seeds in the upper and lower brackets of the 128-man draw in the premier men's singles event.

Pienzenaves disposed of Harry

Villareal, 15-0, 15-1, while Asuncion shut out Michael Benitez, 15-0, 15-0.

Co-third seeds Arolas Amahit and Rodel Bartolome thumped Ramin Cruz, 15-1, 15-2 and Ryan Conde, 15-1, 15-1, respectively, even as No.4 Reynaldo Selga, No.5 Prospero Aguilar and No.6 Wally Fernandez all coasted to easy victories to advance to the round of 32 of the elite category of the event sponsored by electronics giant JVC.

U-bix national pro-am golf stakes P1.2M pot

THE U-BIX Riviera National Pro-Am will have a bigger pot of P1.2 million in cash and certificates for this year's tournament.

U-Bix Corp. president Bert Bravo, who launched the event in 2001, said they have increased the purse by P200,000 to make the tournament "more worthwhile."

The tournament, set Nov. 19-22 at Riviera's Langer course, is open to accredited pros and amateurs with handicap indexes. A pro and

an amateur will form one team.

The traditional Celebrity Pro-Am will officially kick off the 72-hole event Nov. 18. Format is one-ball twosome.

The top 30 pros based on the organizing committee's rankings are restricted from teaming up with amateurs who have handicap indexes of five and lower.

Registration centers are at the NGAP with telephones 525-6987 or 524-5160 and Riviera at 888-9127.

The smiling fella

PETER Alegre died of cancer recently. He was 38.

Peter was roly-poly, huge like a trunk of a 100-year-old acacia tree. But if his broad shoulders sagged by the day as his illness consumed him, his spirits did not. Ever the hopeful fellow that he was, Peter believed he would survive.

The last time I saw him, he was skinny as Fred Astaire. Only the cheer in his eyes, the gleeful lilt in his voice, were left. He'd just been to the United States for treatment. The way he had carried himself—chemotherapy and all—it appeared like he'd lick the Big C.

Alas, he would not. Cancer has always been the disease that is almost bereft of miracle.

My father died of cancer. Two of his sisters died of cancer.

My sister-in-law, Chelita Juvinda Entienza, died of cancer.

My first cousin, Atchie Lenny, died of cancer.

Joe Mari Velez died of cancer.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

Joe Cantada died of cancer. Pingoy Pengzon died of cancer. Boy Clarino died of cancer. Rene Cayetano died of cancer. Danny Floro died of cancer.

Against cancer, it's almost goodbye from Day One. There are survivors, of course. One survivor of note is Dr. Carmen Enverga-Santos, the OB-Gyne of many of the nation's celebrities. For surviving leukemia, the doctor has established a cancer foundation.

If heart attack is the thief of the night, cancer is the hostage taker.

Like the rest before him, Peter Alegre was in the pink of health when, all too suddenly like a

loony popping out from nowhere, the Big C had him by the neck. He struggled. He fought on. In the end, like many before him, he would lose. The way my father lost, years after he got the disease.

Peter was the son of Jun Alegre, a Sorsogon-born journalist with a pen that pricked the comfortable virtually all the time.

Peter was the brother of Ricky Alegre, also a print journalist of note before becoming a radio man. He was the station manager of the giant RMN 558 (Atty. AGA's home base) before joining, briefly, Ramon Jacinto's RJ100.3.

Peter, unlike his Dad Jun and Brod Ricky, carried some poundage but, in a manner of speaking, he was the lightest of the Alegres to carry. I should know. Peter it was that I had spent time more than his father and brother.

We joked together, ate together, had coffee together.

We traveled together, golfed together and gulped together.

During all those times that we've been together—whether in the PAL Interclub in Davao or elsewhere—never did I see Peter raise his voice, or even complain one teeny weenie bit about this or that. He was always generous, forgiving to a fault, especially to the lowly. You try to get his goat, and he'll retaliate by simply giving a gentle wave of the hand—saying nothing. He was always the smiling fella.

Because we also wrote together, I will miss Peter, sportswriter.

FASTBREAK. The San Antonio Spurs begin defense of their 2003 NBA title on Oct. 28 when they host the Phoenix Suns at the SBC Center on opening night of the league's 58th season. That same night, the Dallas Mavericks, 2003 Western Conference finalists, travel to Staples Center to face the Los Angeles Lakers. This should be an interesting match since the Lakers will parade new acquisitions Karl Malone and Gary Payton.

SPORTSWATCH

Arcilla-Mora tandem triumphs

SUBIC—Johnny Arcilla and Michael Mora III lived up to their top billing by beating second seeds and first leg champions Junjun Toledo and Beeyong Sison, 7-6 (2), 6-2, yesterday in the men's doubles final of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit 2 at the Subic International Tennis Center indoor court here. It was the third title this year for Arcilla and Mora after the Philta Open last April and the Coca-Cola Open two months ago. In the pro-am division, Iligan City's Joel Palao and Cebuana Lhuillier executive vice president and general manager Jean Henri Lhuillier outplayed Jaime Solon and Nani Jimenez, 5-4, 7-5, to pocket the title.

Barte, Serito rule junior tennis

ILOILO—National youth player Ralph Barte and Marvin Serito of San Beda-Manila ruled their respective divisions at the close of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop Sunday here at the Iloilo Provincial Sports Complex hardcourts. Barte whipped Jonlie Soquino, 6-3, 6-2, to capture the boys' 18-under bracket then retired El Santo Santos 1-0 in the boys' 16-under. Serito bagged the boys' 14-under title at the expense of James Canete, 6-3, 6-0. He shared the limelight with Bernardine Siso in the unisex 10-under; Gerard Ngo in the boys' 12-under; Martina Guba in the girls' 12-under; and Alyssa Labay in the girls' 18-under divisions.

Cebu bets age group triathlon champs

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Nationals Eldy Banluta and Mylene Jarina, both of Cebu City, finished first in their respective divisions in the fifth leg of the Enervon-National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) series here Sunday. The 23-year-old Banluta clocked 1 hour, 5 minutes and 29 seconds for the 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run events for the 20-24 age group title. Jarina outspurred all females en route to a 1:15:15 finish in the 30-34 division. Sarawak International Triathlon bronze medalist Ripples Rafanan (Cebu) timed 1:22:35 to claim the 25-29 title.

RTU, St. Benedict win in WNCAA

RIZAL Technological University, St. Benedict College, Lyceum of the Philippines, St. Scholastica's College and De La Salle-Zobel streaked to their second straight win Sunday in the 34th WNCAA-adidas tournament. In the volleyball games at the Lyceum gym, RTU downed St. Scho, 25-14, 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, in the seniors division while St. Scho won over Angelicum College in the juniors level, 25-6, 25-6, 25-5. At the St. Scho gym, defending champion Lyceum beat Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila, 149-24, while St. Benedict hammered host Siena College of Quezon City, 61-34, both in the seniors level. DLS-Z also recorded its second straight win in the high school level over St. Stephen's High School, 95-24. The other basketball results: Miriam d. St. Scho, 53-21 (midget); Miriam d. St. Scho, 45-26 (seniors).

Rosal tops mid-amateur golfest

LIPA CITY—Abe Rosal fired a 7-under-par 65 Saturday to top the second Active Group Mid-Amateur Open by 11 strokes. Rosal, a banking executive from Canlubang, tamed Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club's Makulot and Lobo courses with nine birdies, including all the four par five holes. Rosal's 65 is a new course record for amateurs. Together with his first-day 71 at Makulot and Malipuno, Rosal, 41, made 136—eight under for 36 holes—to top the Championship Division. "It was may day, really," said Rosal after receiving his prize from Active Group and Mount Malarayat chair Tony Turalda. Jose Nepomuceno of Eagle Ridge shot 81-79—160 to top Class A while Old Canlubang's Willy Landayan carded 84-89—173 to rule Class B. Vic Belen won Class C.

Atienza urges LGUs to help athletes

MANILA Sports Council (Masco) Chief "Ali" Atienza yesterday announced the city government's support for its athletes as he urged local government units (LGUs) to give more support for Team Philippines in its buildup for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. Atienza, a former national athlete and Asian taekwondo champion, said additional funds coming from LGUs would help the national government in preparing athletes for the Games set in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on Dec. 5-13.

Upsilonians na Pumapalo tourney

THE UPSILONIANS na Pumapalo will hold the August leg of its tournament on the 29th at the Orchard Golf and Country Club. The tournament is sponsored by Batch 1989 of the Upsilon Sigma Phi. Dubbed as the 2nd Don Pepe Oledan Cup, the tournament will feature a two-man scramble format. Those who have yet to sign up may confirm by e-mail at floreslaw@manila.com or through text 0917-5207894.

Asuela, Cornel make grand finals anew

ELLEN Asuela and Ariel Cornel booked a return trip to the grand finals after topping the Western Visayas leg over the weekend in the 2003 Shell National Active Chess Championship at the Don Alfredo Community Center in Brgy. Villamonte, Bacolod City. Asuela, who won the Bacolod City leg last year went on to place second in the Grand Finals, scored 6.5 out of a possible seven to retain the title in the juniors division, while Cornel went 7-of-7 to win the kiddies division.

Cusa begins today at Astrodome

THE 9th season of the Colleges and Universities Sports Association begins today with Sen. Robert Jaworski as guest of honor and speaker at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City. Participating schools are Central Colleges of the Philippines, De Ocampo Memorial College, De La Salle Araneta University, Las Piñas Colleges, Manuel Luis Quezon University, Metro Manila College, Philippine College of Criminology, host PMI Colleges, Saint Jude College, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Trinity College Quezon City and University Assumption of Pampanga.

Carpio appointed RP U-20 head

FORMER national goalkeeper Nonoy Carpio was named recently by the Philippine Football Federation as the man-in-charge of the Philippine Under-20 Football Squad. During his Philippine team stint from 1988-97, Carpio trained and played under three international coaches—Argentine Carlos Cavagnaro (1989), German Eckart Krautzon (1991) and Spaniard Juan Cutilias (1997). He is currently the PFF deputy general secretary for development and likewise the project director of Kasibulan 6-12.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING US, Brazil fives show way

SAN JUAN—The US

and Argentina have finished at the top of their respective groups with four wins each as the first round of the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament was completed on Sunday.

The two groups of five teams have been whittled down to a single group of eight.

In the final games of Group B, Brazil beat the Dominican Republic, 104-72, and Venezuela ousted the Virgin Islands, 87-84.

Earlier, Argentina defeated Puerto Rico, 85-80 in Group A to finish the first round with a 3-1 record.

Meanwhile, Rowan Barrett scored 27 points as Canada beat Mexico 108-72 in a



ARGENTINA'S Emanuel Ginobili dunks against host Puerto Rico.

REUTERS

fight-filled game.

The much-awaited match between the US and Argentina will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow on Channel 29, with a replay at 8 p.m. on Channel 29 and IBC-13. (10:30 p.m., Solar).

Reuters

Men's 100-m protest mars world trackfest

US sprinter out for false start

SAINT-DENIS, France—The men's 100 meters was thrown into chaos by a false-start protest, Kelli White sprinted to gold in the women's dash and the Haile Gebrselassie era came to an end at the World Championships on Sunday.

White, the US champion who is bidding for a sprint double, powered to the front midway through the race and pulled away to a commanding win in the 100 final, throwing her arms up in triumph even before she crossed the line.

In a field missing superstar Marion Jones, White clocked a season's best time of 10.85 seconds to win her first major championship title. She will also be a top contender in the 200 meters.

Another American, Torri Edwards, was the surprise silver medalist in a personal best 10.93. Defending champion Zhanna Block of Ukraine took third in 10.99.

In other finals, Sweden's Carolina Klüft became only the third woman to break the 7,000-point barrier as she won her first heptathlon title, and 21-year-old Kenenisa Bekele outkicked Gebrselassie—a four-time champion,

fellow Ethiopian and one of the greatest distance runners in history—to win the 10,000 meters.

But the victories were overshadowed by the controversy in the quarterfinals of the men's 100, with American sprinter Jon Drummond refusing to leave the track after being disqualified under the sport's new false start rules.

Drummond lay on his back on the track for several minutes, saying, "I didn't move, I didn't move," as race officials tried to get him to leave.

After about 15 minutes of confusion, all eight runners were led away from the starting blocks to the warmup area. The runners from the next heat were brought in to run their race.

Later, Drummond was officially disqualified and did not appear for the rerun of his heat. AP



A TRACK official holding a red card tries to move US sprinter Jon Drummond as he lays in protest on the track after he was disqualified for two false starts.

REUTERS

Srichaphan tames Blake

TOP-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan beat James Blake, 6-2, 6-4, to retain the TD Waterhouse Cup title Sunday.

Paradorn's second ATP title this year was the fourth of his career. The Thai star completed the week without conceding a set in five matches.

Paradorn beat Blake for the first time in four meetings. In their previous matchup, the final at Washington in 2002, Blake won in three sets for his only victory in six years on the ATP tour.

Blake has won 10 of his last 14 matches on hardcourt, and played his first final of the



SRICHAPHAN

year.

Paradorn is seeded 11th at the US Open starting Monday, and is drawn to meet France's Cyril Saulnier in the first round. Blake has drawn 27th-seeded Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina.

Like Tiger Woods, whose mother is from Thailand, Paradorn likes to play on Sunday while wearing a red shirt—the country's lucky color. Leading 5-2 in the second set, he switched from white to red only to get broken immediately.

He dropped two straight games to see his lead shrink to 5-4. Paradorn then swept four points on his serve to win the match. AP

Kazakh bets to challenge China, Japan in 3As meet

KAZAKHSTAN ironwoman Svetlana Kazanina and compatriots Yelena Kochsheyeva, Tatyana Roslanova and Natalya Torshina alongside Kyrgyzstan's Tatiana Efimenko and Tatyana Borisov will challenge the world-class bets of China and Japan in the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal track oval.

Kazanina garnered 5,841 points to rule the heptathlon in the 2002 AAA edition in Sri Lanka, but will meet stiff

challenge from China's Shen Shengfei, the Busan Asian Games champion with 5,911 points.

Kochsheyeva is last year's long jump Asian champion with a 6.61m record, but only copped a bronze in Busan where India's George Anju Bobby won the gold (6.53m) and Japanese Hanaoka Maho the silver (6.47m).

Roslanova topped the women's 400m in 52.61 seconds in Sri Lanka. Chian's Chen Yuxiang, the Busan gold

medalist, submitted a slower clocking of 53.84. The Kazakh, however, lost to the Chinese in the Korean competitions, landing fourth in 57.04.

The Kazakh repeated the feat in Busan two months later, taking the gold in a slower time of 56.13 but enough to beat Yinglan anew (56.43) and another Chinese star, Yao Yuehua.

Efimenko is both the Asian championship and Busan Asian Games gold medalist in high

jump, doing 1.92m in Colombo and 1.90m in Busan. She defeated the same opponents in both competitions, silver winner Aloysius Bobby of India and bronze medalist Korzhova Marina of Kazakhstan.

Borisov took the 1,500-m run gold (4:16.27) in the Sri Lanka championships, beating Kazakhstan's Lukasheva Svetlana (4:18.63) and Japan's Nasukawa Mizuho (4:19.27).

Bata, Django joining world tilt in Holland

FILIPINO billiards wizards Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante resume their quest for honors and prizes when they compete in the 11th World Pool Masters slated Aug. 29-31 in Holland.

Reyes and Bustamante, who won a tournament each and earned a combined \$67,000 in three tournaments in the United States the past two weeks, will leave tomorrow for the Dutch town of Egmond aan Zee.

The Puyat Sports-sponsored cue acers are among the 16 invitees in the tournament being held outside of England for the first time and offering \$20,000 (P1.1 million) to the champion.

Aside from Reyes and Bustamante, organizer Matchroom Sports Ltd. also invited reigning world champion (Cardiff) Thorsten Hohmann, Ralf Souquet, Germany; Earl Strickland, USA; Alex Pagulayan, Canada; Steve Davis, England; Mika Immonen, Finland; Hui-Kai Hsia, Taiwan; Niclas Bergendoff, Tom Storm, Sweden; Tony Drago, Malta; Niels Feijen, Alex Lely, Rico Diks and Nick Van Den Berg, Netherlands.

Four of them are former Masters champions: Souquet (1994, 1996, 2000, 2002), Bustamante (1998, 2001), Strickland (1997), Lely (1999).

Reyes, who celebrates his 49th birthday today, and Bustamante are the early favorites.

China gymnasts win

ANAHEIM, California—The Americans failed to win a medal in Sunday's event finals, their first shutout at the World Gymnastics Championships. Li Xiaoping of China won golds on vault and parallel bars, where he edged teammate Huang Xu. China's Fan Ye, meanwhile, won on the balance beam.

Li's twists on his second vault were so tight he looked as if his body was going to corkscrew through the mat. When he stuck his landing, he pumped his fists and then turned to the crowd, waving and blowing kisses.

Marian Dragulescu of Romania took the silver, and Canada's Kyle Shewfelt won his second bronze of the meet. AP

Enjoy the Good Life!

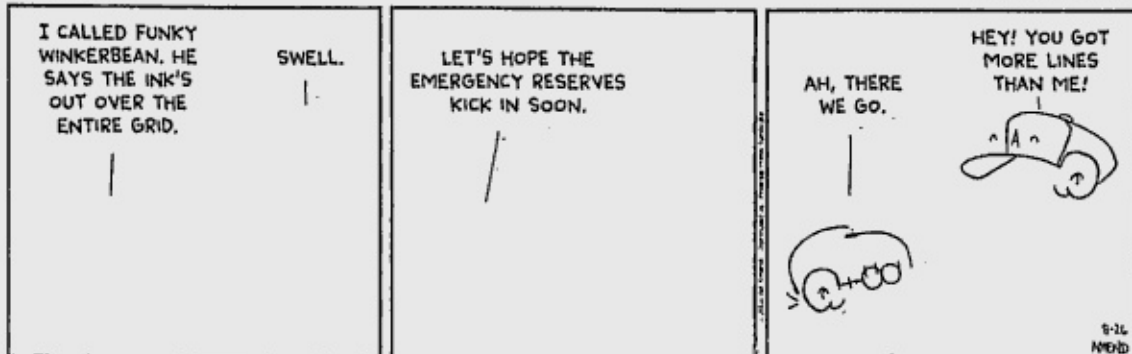


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BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Essentially, you are easygoing and accepting. You do not demand the spotlight. Because of this you sometimes have to struggle for the recognition of your true worth. Others like you because you are naturally cooperative and friendly. You are an excellent parent. This year, interesting choices will present themselves to you.

Birthdate of: Christopher Columbus, explorer; Macaulay Culkin, actor; Sarah Strange, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It might be hard for you to accomplish what you want to do at work today. You have your own agenda, but the government or some large institution does not agree. And so it goes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day to complete artistic and creative activities at home. Finish up decorating projects or renovations. You've got tons of energy today!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): If you want something today, you will probably just buy it. You might also buy a gift for a romantic interest. (You've got lots of ideas bubbling on the back burner.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): No matter whom you're talking to today, you want to "win" the conversation. That's because you identify very strongly with your point of view. Others will no doubt eventually agree with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your sex drive is stimulated today! At the very least, you will enjoy flirting with others. You feel playful, prankish and ready for fun. Yo!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Disagreements that arise today could be due to the fact that you are attracted to someone and don't even realize it. Desire is always a confusing energy.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Belly muscles
- Webster musical
- Hey you!
- Old anesthetic
- Dept. of Labor branch
- New Haven institution
- Some dogs
- Shout of pain
- Protuberances
- Sulks
- Observes
- Expose as false
- Not ready
- Distress letters
- Eisenhower
- Pond growth
- Fled
- Squeezed
- Tropical vine
- Move up and down
- Fathered
- Most clever
- Apron element
- Exercise counts, briefly
- Boat mover
- Holy cow!
- Rot
- Smart sets
- Game played with 32 cards
- Passion
- Clear frost
- Lubricate
- Some dogs
- Island near Java
- Mother of Apollo
- Jittery
- Territory
- Pressing need?
- Wood for pilings

DOWN

- Tint again
- Cultural values
- Some dogs
- Part of GTE
- Castle and Dunne
- For both sexes
- Inquired
- Learned papers
- N.A. defense grp.
- Bridge support
- Some dogs
- Narrow cut
- Golf gadgets
- Balling question
- Untitled works
- Lacking sense
- Ribbon knot
- Bar check
- Stronghold of a castle
- Byrnes and Hall
- In addition
- Country singer McCann
- San Francisco hill
- British Nobelist
- Paul
- Moving in an eddy
- Bridge action
- Young child
- Common nut tree
- One who marries
- Ridge with a cliff
- Gospels' source material
- Pac. pact
- Washer cycle
- Senior
- Palindromic pop group
- Stand on hind legs
- Windows image
- Actor Wallach
- Daughter of Loki

By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
8/26/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	R	A	T	C	A	L	L	S	T	R	A	P
A	L	A	I	O	G	E	E	N	A	I	V	E	
S	U	P	P	O	R	T	I	N	G	A	C	T	
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C	R	O	N	E	P	U	R	B	A	R	E	A	
I	N	S	E	T	S	P	A	L	I	M	S		
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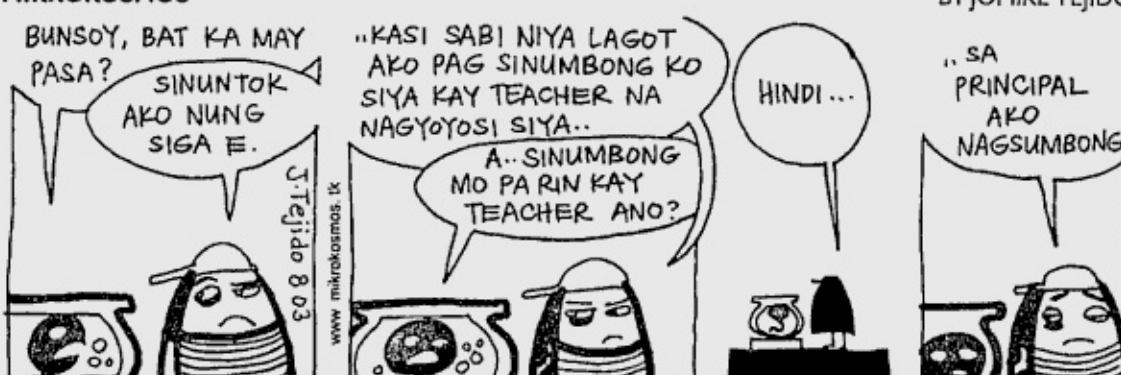
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



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KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



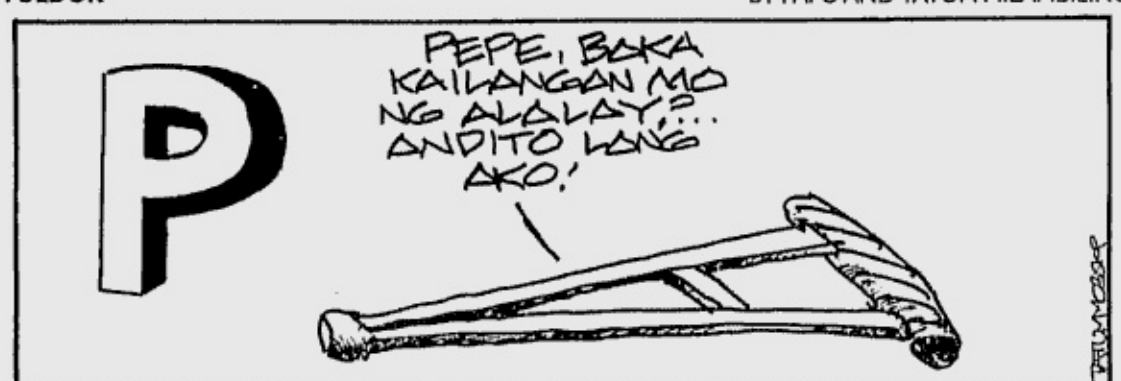
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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 NOON AT NGAYON	1 THE ITALIAN JOB	1 EROTIC TALES	1 THE ITALIAN JOB	1 THE ITALIAN JOB
2 THE ITALIAN JOB	2 DOGVILLE	2 LAN YU	2 A VIEW FROM THE TOP	2 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 LXG	3 NOON AT NGAYON	3 ALEX & EMMA	3 LXG	3 LXG
4 KEKA	4 FINDING NEMO	4 ALEX & EMMA	4 ALEX & EMMA	4 ALEX & EMMA
	5 VIEW FROM THE TOP	5 FINDING NEMO	5 FINDING NEMO	5 FINDING NEMO

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN	3 KEKA	3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN	4 A VIEW FROM THE TOP	4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 NOON AT NGAYON	5 ALEX & EMMA	5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 NOON AT NGAYON	6 NOON AT NGAYON	6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 NOON AT NGAYON	7 NOON AT NGAYON	7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 NOON AT NGAYON	8 NOON AT NGAYON	8 NOON AT NGAYON
9 NOON AT NGAYON	9 NOON AT NGAYON	9 NOON AT NGAYON
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4 ITALIAN JOB	4 FINDING NEMO
5 FINDING NEMO	5 ALEX & EMMA
6 NOON AT NGAYON	6 NENA INOSENTE
7 KEKA	7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 DARK WATER	8 ITALIAN JOB
9	9 BAD BOYS 2
10	10 KEKA

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4 KEKA	4 KEKA
5 ITALIAN JOB	5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 TOMB RAIDER 2	7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 FINDING NEMO	8 NOON AT NGAYON
9 NOON AT NGAYON	9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 BAD BOYS 2	10 BAD BOYS 2

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Kris does a 'Trillanes'

From page A26

in her dressing room, too.

In the jackpot portion, the contestant picks a relative, a friend or a charitable institution who will win a showcase if the contestant correctly answers a certain number of questions.

The producers of "Game Ka Na Ba?" have

also been considering changing the show's title, and Kris feels strongly against this, according to the other ABS-CBN talent.

"She said people say, 'Kris, game ka na ba?' when they see her in public," the talent said. "She feels she is more identified with that show than 'Morning Girls' or 'The Buzz,'" the other talent added.

"Game Ka Na Ba?" was launched in 2001 to rival IBC 13's top-rating "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

The latter, hosted by Christopher de Leon, folded up shortly while "Game Ka Na Ba?" became the top-rating game show barely four months after its launch.

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF A BROTHA

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	WENA INOCENTE
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C	

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CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	WENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	BEHIND GREEN DOOR
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALVIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	BARASAGIN KRISTAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	VIEW FROM THE TOP
CINEMA-14	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-15	WENATA NG LUPA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	IMPOSTOR

UNIWEDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-4	MEN IN BLACK II
	SEDA

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LXG PG13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	FINDING NEMO GP 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	A VIEW FROM THE TOP PG13 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50-9:50
ITALIAN JOB R13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	ALEX AND EMMA PG13 11:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	ITALIAN JOB R13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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P13

CINEMA 2 THE ITALIAN JOB
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50, R13

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Makati Cinemanila extended to Sept. 2



"CITY OF GOD," by Fernando Meirelles, Grand Jury Prize winner

THE 5TH Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival, originally scheduled to end last Aug. 24, has been extended.

From Aug. 25 to Sept. 2, this year's Cinemanila award winners, crowd favorites and the Best of Cinemanila will be shown at the Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt cinemas in Ayala Center, Makati City.

"Mayor's Day" on Aug. 31 will feature the Cinemanila 2003 award-winning films at the Greenbelt 1 cinemas: Lino Brocka Award winner "Uzak (Distant)" (11:30 a.m., Cinema 2); Grand Jury Prize winners "City of God" (9:30 p.m., Cinema 2) and "The Blessing

Bell" (7 p.m., Cinema 2); Special Jury Prize winner "Whale Rider" (4:30 p.m., Cinema 2); Netpac awardees "Divine Intervention" (2 p.m., Cinema 2) and the Philippines' own "Dekada '70" (11:30 a.m., Cinema 1); "The Tracker" (2 p.m. Cinema 1); Best Short Film "Flames," Best Documentary "Riles," Fernando Meirelles' "Palace II" and "Anino" by Raymond Red (4:30-7 p.m. Cinema 1).

The Wong Kar-wai Movie Marathon on Aug. 30 at the Greenbelt 1 cinemas will feature "Days of Being Wild" (2 p.m.), "In the Mood for Love" (4:30 p.m.), "Chungking Express" (7 p.m.) and

"Happy Together" (9 p.m.)

Now's your chance to catch these hit films: "Infernal Affairs," "Lan Yu," "Brief Crossing," "Dolls," "Tale of a Naughty Girl," "Waiting for Happiness," "24-Hour Party People," "Buttlers," "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and "Bandit Queen;" American documentaries "Bob Dylan: Don't Look Back," and "Charlie: The Life and Art of Charles Chaplin," and the whole-day screenings of "Erotic Tales" (Sept. 1) and "City of God" (Sept. 2) at Greenbelt Cinema 1 and 2.

Film showing schedules are available at Greenbelt 1 and the Cinemanila official website, www.cinemanila.com.ph.

Upbeat move

FOR a long time now, the country's cultural leaders have been trying to showcase the arts and culture so that they can be made accessible to the general populace. This is a daunting task, because to many people, the arts are intimidating, difficult to appreciate, expensive or elitist.

Other problems include the government's lack of support, ersatz distinctions between "high" and "popular" art, artists who live in ivory towers, mediocre artists, amateurism in the arts, and lack of affordable performance venues.

The problems are so daunting that, whenever efforts are made to help solve them, we go out of our way to support them. One such upbeat move is the Filipino Heritage Festival that the private sector, in association with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, is holding next month.

The monthlong festival will

utilize heritage sites as venues for cultural activities involving the visual and performing arts, folklore, history, fashion and architecture.

Among its highlights: Misa Pama, a mass at the Manila Cathedral that will open the celebration.

An exhibit of ethnic designs by our National Living Treasures at Rustan's Makati.

Regional artifacts showcased by the Congressional Ladies' Foundation in the heritage district of Quiapo.

A retrospective exhibit of Ramon Valera's fashion creations at the National Museum.

A Unesco-sponsored exhibition of heritage sites.

Of particular interest is the focus on the folklores crafts of our National Living Treasures, because they are a vanishing breed.

To have their works showcased at Rustan's is to give them the

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



popular exposure they need for more people to appreciate their creative gifts, and for young people to want to learn to do what they do, to keep our fold traditions alive.

We trust that you will go out of your way to patronize the Filipino Heritage Festival's events, so that it becomes popular and productive, and can be made an annual treat. Lord knows we need all the cultural and artistic invigoration we can get in these bleakly unfocused and self-serving times.

Singer and songwriter

JODIE Brooke Wilson is an excellent singer who writes her own songs. She's had hits and enjoyed success as a songwriter in Eu-

rope, where her "I Want What She's Got" was No. 1 for 10 weeks in 2002.

In Australia, the country of her birth, Jodie was co-writer of "Higher Than Heaven," which was featured in the double platinum album of the girl band Bar-dot. The song was also used as the theme song of the Sydney 2002 Olympics and on the soundtrack of a Rugrats movie.

Jodie has co-written songs with many popular composers, and sang her own composition, "Show Me Now," on the soundtrack of "Scary Movie."

Restaurant rebates

At the Richmond Hotel's Grill and Exchange Bar, discounts are in store for patrons. A receipt for at least P3,000 entitles diners to a P500 gift certificate; for a receipt for P5,000, a P1,000 gift certificate and guests spending at least P8,000 get to choose between two P1,000 gift certificates or a

weekend overnight stay in a superior room with buffet breakfast for two. Call 638-7777, local 3408.

All-instrumental program

ON AUG. 28, the third concert in the Clarion season will be presented by the MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank. Titled "Treasures for the Dusty Attic," the instrumental program features pianist Rudolf Golez, guitarist Alvin Salenga, violinist Michi Martinez, cellist Arnold Josue and clarinetist Ariel Sta. Ana. Call 844-4172.

Rakugo

JAPAN Foundation's Manila Office is flying in noted Rakugo performers for special shows in Cebu City on Aug. 27, in UP Dili-

Alessandra: I'll go to Assunta's wedding only if Jules is not there

I MET Alessandra de Rossi for the first time when she was a guest in our show with TJ Manotoc, "Celebrity DAT Com."

She struck me as someone whose presence you simply can't ignore and refuses to be ignored. Upon entering the dressing room, she caught my attention instantly because she was hollering for Maui Taylor (our guest co-host last week) at the top of her voice. She was already shrieking!

Alessandra is not of the sweetums variety. She is angst-ridden and she sure knows how to vent. But she also carries her snootiness quite well. She minced no words when I asked her if she would attend the church wedding of her estranged sister Assunta de Rossi and Jules Ledesma.

"Pupunta lang ako sa kasal nila if Jules will be in a remote location like Negros and Assunta will be here in Manila," said Alessandra. "Kahit ako pa ang magbitbit ng wedding gown niya basta wala si Jules dun at si Assunta lang ang makikita ko."

Apparently, she still hasn't forgiven Jules for snatching her sister away at such a young age, although she says getting hitched in your teens is no big deal.

"Okay lang naman ikasal ka nang bata ka pa basta wala kang natatapakang tao," she said. "I saw the agony my mom went through when Jules came into the picture, and I feel her pain. Segurista si Jules kaya pinakasalan niya agad si Assunta, para 'di na maagaw ng iba."

While she's very vocal about her sentiments regarding her sister's marriage, she's less outspoken when it comes to her own love life. She would rather not comment about her romance with Oyo Boy Sotto.

"Marami kasing nakikialam," she said. "Mas mabuti 'pag we keep things between us para 'di maudlot. I don't want the whole world to know our every move like other show biz couples who are always making headline news from the time they start until they break up."

I found it odd that someone as feisty as she suddenly turns mum when it's her love life being discussed. How ironic that she has a mouthful to say about her sister Assunta and Jules but only monosyllabic answers about herself and Oyo Boy.

Maui the student

MAUI Taylor happily told me that things are still going strong between her and her boyfriend of three years who is not from show biz.

"I guess it helps that he's not in the same business," she said. "He gives me a different perspective of the world. To avoid conflict he does not watch my films although he accompanies me to show biz affairs sometimes."

Jealousy attacks are inevitable because she happens to be a sex siren and men will swarm around her. "I tell them right away that I already have a boyfriend," she said, "but you know how some men are. They get more challenged when they know you're taken already. But I find a way to keep reassuring my boyfriend that he's the only one. Natural lang naman ang magselos paminsan-minsan basta nasa lugar."

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



DE ROSSI full of angst

Busy as she is, Maui finds time not just for love but for studies as well. "I'm graduating from my management course," she said. "I don't want to limit myself to show biz. I want to keep growing. Katya Santos finished her course already and we are both venturing into production. Our first project is a concert of Nina at Suburbia in September."

Maui's a welcome change from most sexy stars because she's making sure that she's got something between her ears.

Reader writes

"I AM writing to you with regard to Sexbomb singer Rochelle Pangilinan. We watch GMA 7's 'Eat Bulaga' almost every day. For quite a long time now, my friends and family have noticed the 'boisterous' behavior of Rochelle in Eat Bulaga's 'Laban o Bawi' portion. Every time a contestant is asked whether 'Laban' or 'Bawi,' Rochelle screams at the contestant's ear. There were times when the contestant would just cover his/her ears. To us viewers, it looks annoying and sounds irritating. Sexbomb Rochelle should think of something else that is not irritating."

"I would also suggest to GMA 7 management and 'Eat Bulaga' producer Tape Inc. that for more variety, the Sexbomb girls should be rotated and each should get her turn to be in the front portion where Rochelle usually stands. Nakakapagod na kasing panoorin kung si Rochelle ang palaging nasa harapan."
— Raffy Azada IV,
Mandaluyong

Personal

CHEERS and thanks to my Baguio chill-out buddies Danny Jota and Benjie Jalandoni for such a swell time in the City of Pines. Your company is even cooler than Baguio weather!

Damo gid na salamat to Luther Manayaga of Cebu Waterfront Hotel and "Mr. Suave" Tony Ceniza of Bohol Beach Club for the kind assistance at the 11th hour.

For feedback, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, dollyanne@truefaithband.com

ALBARRACIN

Seminar on program directing

BUTCH Albarracin is the main speaker and facilitator of the "Program & Show Directing" seminar on Aug. 31 at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong.

Organized by the Learning Access (Learnax), the seminar is designed to sharpen the directing and stage management skills of individuals involved in the production of programs and shows.

Albarracin is the founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, which has been known for training unknowns who eventually become stars like Nina, Sarah Geronimo, Noy Volante, Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Cooky Chua, Ima Castro, four others who played in "Miss Saigon," and many others.

For inquiries, visit Learnax at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City, or call 723-9373, 727-5293 or 411-7310.

It was the middle of the week, last Wednesday, but stars littered Greenbelt 3 that night. Donita Rose was seen shopping at Mix Boutique. Anne Curtis was strolling with an alalay on the second level. Comedian John Lapuz was also there, and so were director Elwood Perez and events specialist Tim Yap who were at separate tables at Bubba Gump Restaurant.

DID YOU KNOW...

Arqueta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	FINDING NEMO
Ali 6	VIEW FROM THE TOP
Ali 7	ALEX AND EMMA

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 28	UAAP GAMES: UP VS. DLSU
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES: FEU VS. UE
SEPT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
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GENESIS



AQUINO says issue was resolved over lunch.

FILE PHOTO

ENTERTAINMENT

Kris does a 'Trillanes'

TV host unhappy with her show's new format, snubs 'The Buzz'

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS and TV host Kris Aquino said she "did a Trillanes" and "rebelled" against her network bosses last Sunday when she did not appear on the show biz talk show "The Buzz," which she co-hosts with Boy Abunda.

Kris yesterday told INQUIRER Entertainment she chose not to work on "The

Buzz" last Sunday because she was disappointed with the change of format of one of her shows on ABS-CBN.

But Kris refused to reveal which of her three shows would be given a new format, saying her bosses at ABS-CBN did not allow her to do so.

Kris hosts "Game Ka Na Ba?," "Morning Girls" with Korina Sanchez, and "The Buzz."

"I did a Trillanes because I was not

happy with the change in format of a certain show," she said. "I rebelled against my bosses. But everything had been resolved in a lunch meeting with some of the ABS-CBN executives."

Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes is the spokesperson of the Magdalo group that staged the July 27 failed coup at the Oakwood Premier Hotel in Ayala Center.

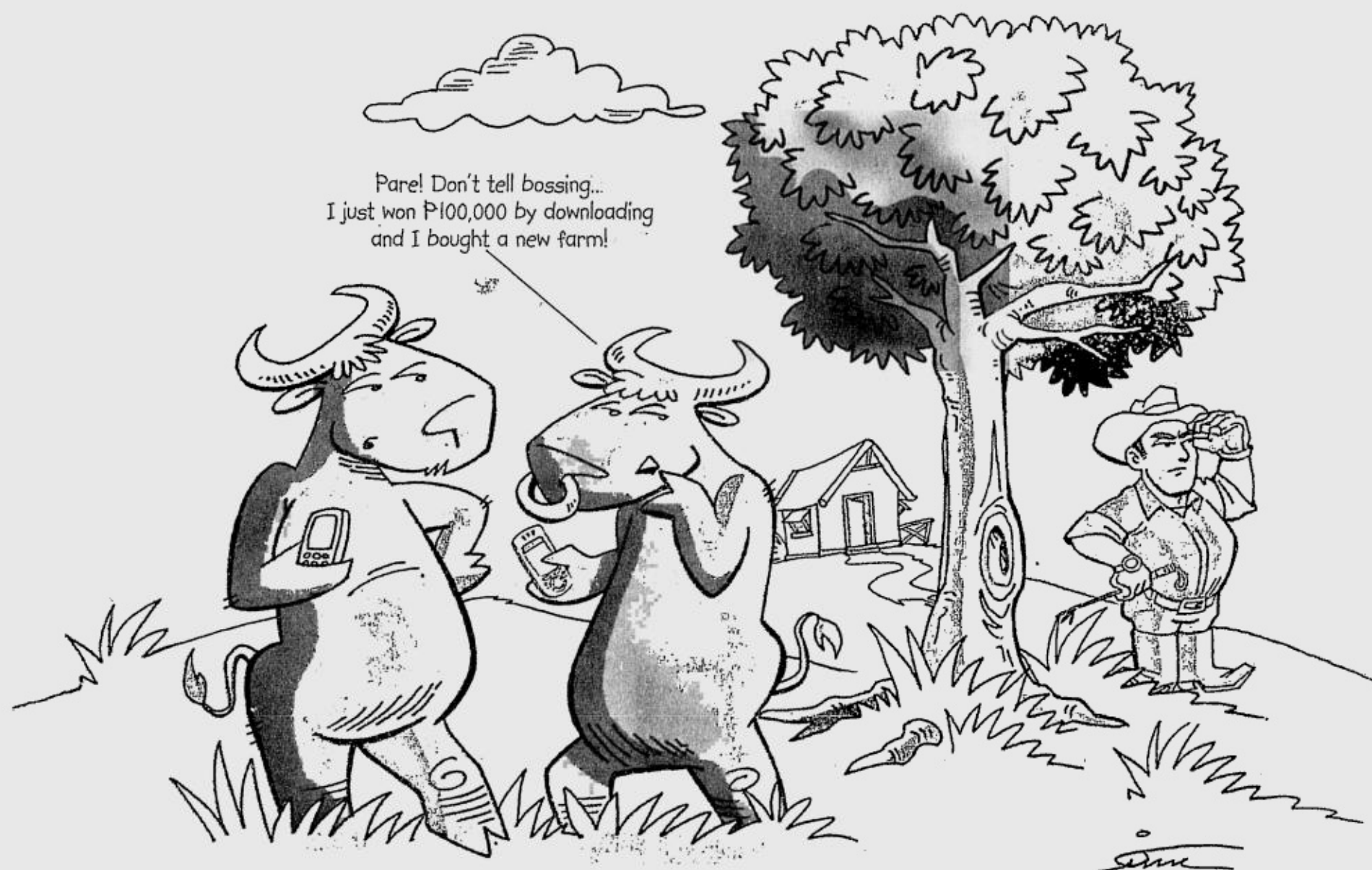
According to another ABS-CBN

talent, who refused to be identified, it is "Game Ka Na Ba?" that would have a new format soon.

The talent said Kris had been crying since Saturday night because the game show's jackpot portion, which Kris described as "the heart and soul of the show," would be removed.

A staff member of "The Buzz" said Kris spent Sunday afternoon crying

KRIS/A26



all i want is in
MYGLOBE

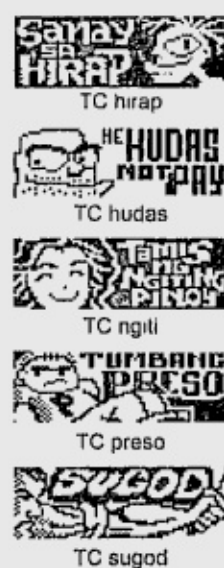
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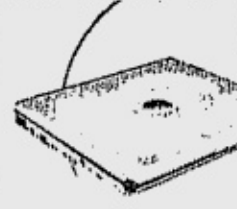
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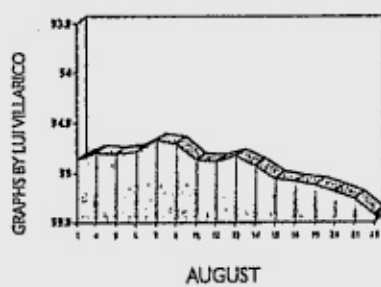
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BUSINESS

Petron, Total raise petroleum prices

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P 55.42 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 25, 2003

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 25, 2003

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per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 25, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up 1.35% on bargain-hunting

STOCKS rose sharply on bargain-hunting yesterday but analysts were doubtful if the uptrend could be sustained given the weakening peso and political uncertainties.

The main index gained 1.35 percent or 16.76 points to 1,262.10 points. The market is up 23.93 percent so far this year.

"Bargain-hunting on select issues continued to provide support to the market. However, the level of support has not been particularly strong," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

"The market remains in consolidation and will likely trade within the current band as investors await fresh developments to prompt further accumulation or increased profit-taking," he said.

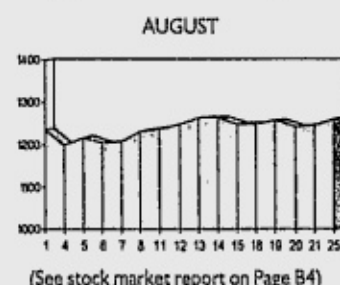
Value turnover rose to P539.1 million from Thursday's P438 million. Financial markets were closed on Friday for a public holiday.

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 36 to 20 and 35 stocks were unchanged.

"The peso is depreciating, the political infighting is getting worse, and interest rates are likely to shoot up because of the peso," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"It's difficult to say how the market will likely behave in the next session," he said, adding however, that he expected the main index to remain between 1,240 and 1,270 points.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest telecommunications firm, led the active list and gained P10 to P540. On Friday, the PLDT ADR, which is traded in New York, rose 1.56 percent to \$9.76. *Reuters*



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PETRON Corp. and Total Philippines yesterday jacked up their prices of gasoline, diesel, kerosene and other products by 40 centavos a liter and of liquefied petroleum gas by 50 centavos a kilogram or P5.50 per 11-kg cylinder.

Caltex Philippines Inc., which raised prices by 30 centavos a liter early last Friday only to take it back in the evening of the same day, said the price of its LPG was to increase by 50 centavos a kilogram starting midnight last night.

Other oil companies said they have not yet decided to follow suit. Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron public affairs manager, said an 11-kg

cylinder of Gasul would now cost between P271 and P281.

Ruivivar said the price changes were due to the sustained rise in crude prices and the continued depreciation of the peso.

Petron monitoring showed that prices of the bellwether Dubai crude had risen by more than \$3 a barrel since May. Dubai crude averaged at \$24.36

a barrel in May compared to the month-to-date figure of \$27.63.

In the same period, the peso weakened by P2.37 against the dollar since May to record closing lows above 55 to \$1.

"Changes in crude prices and the foreign exchange rate (starting in June) should reflect an increase of P1.66 a liter, but the latest adjustment brings us to an average increase of only 90 centavos a liter," Ruivivar said.

Since the uptrend in June, local companies adjusted prices only in the first week of August by 60 centavos for gasoline and 40 centavos for diesel and kerosene.

For its part, Total said the rise in prices was prompted by a steep climb in the benchmark price for refined petroleum products—the Mean of Platts Singapore or MOPS.

Total officials said that since May, average MOPS prices went up by about 12 percent for diesel, 15 percent for kerosene and 24 percent for unleaded gasoline.

"With (the recent) price adjustment, local prices from May to date would only rise by an average of 5 percent."

Total said retail prices of its Totalgas depended on the sellers as the French company was not allowed to get involved in retailing.

Businesses still optimistic in 2nd half—BSP survey

By Clarissa S. Batino

BULLISH sentiments surprisingly marked the latest survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas conducted after the July 27 mutiny, although many respondents were worried about the ill-effects of the failed military uprising and the sustained weakness of the peso.

A quarterly BSP poll conducted from the last two weeks of July to the first week of August covering 298 respondents showed that businesses managed to have a positive outlook for the current and the upcoming quarters on expectations of higher demand toward the Christmas season and increasing orders from traditional markets like the United States, Europe and Asia.

BSP managing director for research Diwa Guinigundo said 54 percent of the respondents were polled before July 27 while the rest came after the mutiny.

"Respondents were optimistic also following the quick resolution of the US-Iraq war

and immediate control of (the) SARS (outbreak)," said the central bank official.

Improving economic fundamentals like the declining fiscal deficit leading to modest interest rates and favorable inflation rate also boosted the confidence of the investors surveyed.

The BSP survey covered 12 major industry groups drawn from the top 3,000 corporations in Metro Manila based on the list of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The latest survey represented a 64-percent response rate, slightly down from 70 percent the previous poll.

Using a so-called diffusion index wherein positive results meant that more respondents had an improving rather than improving sentiment, the business expectation index for the current period stood at 17.2 percent from 4 percent in the second quarter.

Business prospects for the fourth quarter showed greater optimism as the overall outlook index rose to 44.5 percent from 27.6 per-

BUSINESS/B4

60-day transition period on new vehicle taxes seen

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said the government was studying a plan to give the automotive industry a 60-day transition period, or until to Oct. 15, before the law rationalizing the excise taxation on motor vehicles is implemented.

But the finance department turned down the request of the automotive industry to defer the Bureau of Internal Revenue regulation tightening the excise tax exemptions of 10-seater vehicles effective Sept. 9.

"We, including (Finance) Secretary (Jose Isidro) Camacho, met with car industry leaders last Friday and the secretary was very clear that we are not turning back on the effectivity of the Sept. 9 (BIR) regulation," Finance Undersecretary Gracia Pulido-Tan said yesterday.

Tan met with the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines yesterday. Campi is reportedly seeking a longer transition period than the 45 days provided by the law to give auto assemblers time to adjust to

60-DAY/B4

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EASTERN
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Plan to develop former refugee camp revived

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is reviving plans to develop a 35-hectare former refugee camp in Morong Bataan into a mixed industrial-agricultural estate as part of its program to spur economic activities in the

Northern Luzon area. BCDA president and chief executive officer Rufo Colayco said the government corporation was now undertaking a study on how to develop the unutilized land which, when developed, would be called the Bataan Techno Park.

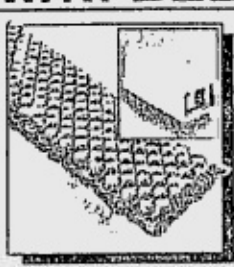
"We are still deciding whether BCDA itself will develop the land or tap someone from the private sector to do the proposed development," said Colayco in an interview.

The plan to develop the Morong refugee camp into a techno park was first conceptualized in 1996. It was, however, shelved due to politicking. Colayco said the BCDA intended to dedicate part of the land to the creation of an agricultural park where high-value crops would be planted. He added that part of the site would also be developed as an industrial estate where factories for various industries, especially in the field of information technology, will be situated. Colayco said the government had yet to come up with an estimate of the project's development cost, but added that it would complement the 94-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project, which the BCDA was currently working on.

"Aside from transforming it into an industrial-agricultural area, it would also be developed into a tourism complex. This project is also one way of fulfilling BCDA's mandate to transform former bases into economic zones and establish infrastructure in the north to decongest Metro Manila and spread out employment opportunities," he said.

The techno park is part of the BCDA's Subic-Clark Alliance Development (SCAD) program, which is aimed at boosting economic activities in Subic, Clark and surrounding areas and making them one of the country's growth corridors.

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8. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
9. EASTHOCK II	120,000	100,000
10. FOREST HILLS "B"	300,000	250,000
11. KAMAHIT GOLF CLUB "A"	300,000	250,000
12. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	2,400,000	2,000,000
13. MANILA GOLF CLUB (RES.)	2,400,000	2,000,000
14. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	500,000	450,000
15. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB (A.B.C.)	200,000	160,000
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Telecom body OKs transfer of Globe landline, data services to Islacom

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has approved the transfer of Globe Telecom Inc.'s landline and data services, assets and obligations to wholly owned subsidiary Isla Communications Co. Inc., now known as Innove Communications Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the Ayala-led firm said its landline and data services, including all their related assets, rights, obligations and liabilities under existing contracts would be transferred to Islacom.

"The NTC also approved the common usage, operations and maintenance of the network elements of Globe and Isla to effect the smooth transfer of the service and to ensure no disruption in interconnection with other carriers while the transfer is being effected," Globe senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said in the disclosure.

Globe senior vice president and chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said in a telephone interview that the transfer would allow both Globe and Islacom to be more focused on their markets.

Land-line and data services, he explained, operated under a cost structure different from that of cellular phone operations.

He said putting all landline and data services and assets under one company would result in more efficient operations.

"Globe is now a pure wireless company. With all the land-line assets in Islacom, both companies can be more focused. There could be some savings (from the transfer), but the main objective is to have a corporate structure geared toward what's happening in the market," he said.

Despite being transformed into a predominantly wire-line company, prepaid cellular brand Touch Mobile will remain under Islacom, at least until plans to make a similar asset transfer to Globe is finalized.

Last year, Globe and Islacom integrated their cellular networks to make their operations more efficient. As a result, Islacom now used Globe's network for its mobile services while still keeping separate records for its wireless subscribers.

Gonzalez revealed that completely transferring Islacom's wireless operations to Globe was the next step, although there were no immediate plans for that as of the moment.

The NTC handed down its decision on Aug. 22 in response to Globe's petition to integrate its landline and data services under Islacom.

Financial woes hit RP's first merchant IPP

THE COUNTRY'S first merchant independent power producer was recently reported to have drastically cut its manpower due to serious financial losses arising from the artificial rates of generation charges imposed by National Power Corp.

Duracom recently laid off almost 50 percent of its work force following a decision to mothball two of its power barges. Sources from the energy sector said Duracom "is reeling under the adverse effects of the mandated reduction in Napcor rates implemented starting May last year." The reduction followed the decrease in the fuel cost purchase adjustment which NPC was allowed to charge.

The rates, unfortunately, do not reflect true generation costs, they said. Duracom used to operate four power barges located off the Navotas coast which were set up in 1996. It was reportedly forced to shutdown one power barge in September last year and another one in January this year in the aftermath of the NPC rate reduction leaving only two operating power barges.

The industry sources said Duracom had also been adversely affected by the limitation in its power generation due to the prevailing NPC-Meralco settlement agreement. Due to the said agreement, Duracom provides only some 15 to 18 percent of its plant capacity or 28 gigawatt-hour per month. The IPP merely backs Meralco's peak-hour demand, the sources said.

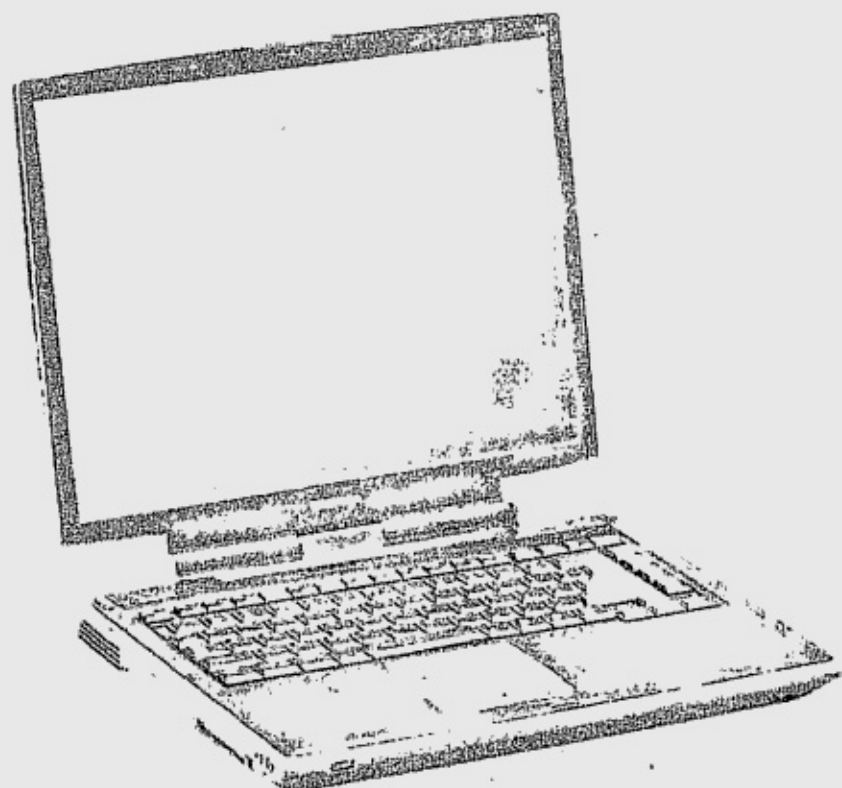
Most of the personnel laid off are technical staff, the sources said.

The sources said the "fate of Duracom is ironic given the role it played in the attempt to modernize the local power industry." They noted that "Duracom was, in fact, the first merchant IPP in the country" which, under the Electric Power Industry Act (Epira) was supposed to provide power at highly competitive open-market rates.

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SILICON VALLEY: 3126111 to 20 • COMPLINK MARKETING: 6871234, 6873100, 6873105 • F.A.T.KEE: 7273771 to 74 • MICROGENESIS BUSINESS SYSTEMS: 8970794, 8974417, 8974418, 8974419, 8974420, 8974421, 8974422, 8974423, 8974424, 8974425, 8974426, 8974427, 8974428, 8974429, 8974430, 8974431, 8974432, 8974433, 8974434, 8974435, 8974436, 8974437, 8974438, 8974439, 8974440, 8974441, 8974442, 8974443, 8974444, 8974445, 8974446, 8974447, 8974448, 8974449, 8974450, 8974451, 8974452, 8974453, 8974454, 8974455, 8974456, 8974457, 8974458, 8974459, 8974460, 8974461, 8974462, 8974463, 8974464, 8974465, 8974466, 8974467, 8974468, 8974469, 8974470, 8974471, 8974472, 8974473, 8974474, 8974475, 8974476, 8974477, 8974478, 8974479, 8974480, 8974481, 8974482, 8974483, 8974484, 8974485, 8974486, 8974487, 8974488, 8974489, 8974490, 8974491, 8974492, 8974493, 8974494, 8974495, 8974496, 8974497, 8974498, 8974499, 8974500, 8974501, 8974502, 8974503, 8974504, 8974505, 8974506, 8974507, 8974508, 8974509, 8974510, 8974511, 8974512, 8974513, 8974514, 8974515, 8974516, 8974517, 8974518, 8974519, 8974520, 8974521, 8974522, 8974523, 8974524, 8974525, 8974526, 8974527, 8974528, 8974529, 8974530, 8974531, 8974532, 8974533, 8974534, 8974535, 8974536, 8974537, 8974538, 8974539, 8974540, 8974541, 8974542, 8974543, 8974544, 8974545, 8974546, 8974547, 8974548, 8974549, 8974550, 8974551, 8974552, 8974553, 8974554, 8974555, 8974556, 8974557, 8974558, 8974559, 8974560, 8974561, 8974562, 8974563, 8974564, 8974565, 8974566, 8974567, 8974568, 8974569, 8974570, 8974571, 8974572, 8974573, 8974574, 8974575, 8974576, 8974577, 8974578, 8974579, 8974580, 8974581, 8974582, 8974583, 8974584, 8974585, 8974586, 8974587, 8974588, 8974589, 8974590, 8974591, 8974592, 8974593, 8974594, 8974595, 8974596, 8974597, 8974598, 8974599, 8974600, 8974601, 8974602, 8974603, 8974604, 8974605, 8974606, 8974607, 8974608, 8974609, 8974610, 8974611, 8974612, 8974613, 8974614, 8974615, 8974616, 8974617, 8974618, 8974619, 8974620, 8974621, 8974622, 8974623, 8974624, 8974625, 8974626, 8974627, 8974628, 8974629, 8974630, 8974631, 8974632, 8974633, 8974634, 8974635, 8974636, 8974637, 8974638, 8974639, 8974640, 8974641, 8974642, 8974643, 8974644, 8974645, 8974646, 8974647, 8974648, 8974649, 8974650, 8974651, 8974652, 8974653, 8974654, 8974655, 8974656, 8974657, 8974658, 8974659, 8974660, 8974661, 8974662, 8974663, 8974664, 8974665, 8974666, 8974667, 8974668, 8974669, 8974670, 8974671, 8974672, 8974673, 8974674, 8974675, 8974676, 8974677, 8974678, 8974679, 8974680, 8974681, 8974682, 8974683, 8974684, 8974685, 8974686, 8974687, 8974688, 8974689, 8974690, 8974691, 8974692, 8974693, 8974694, 8974695, 8974696, 8974697, 8974698, 8974699, 8974700, 8974701, 8974702, 8974703, 8974704, 8974705, 8974706, 8974707, 8974708, 8974709, 8974710, 8974711, 8974712, 8974713, 8974714, 8974715, 8974716, 8974717, 8974718, 8974719, 8974720, 8974721, 8974722, 8974723, 8974724, 8974725, 8974726, 8974727, 8974728, 8974729, 8974730, 8974731, 8974732, 8974733, 8974734, 8974735, 8974736, 8974737, 8974738, 8974739, 8974740, 8974741, 8974742, 8974743, 8974744, 8974745, 8974746, 8974747, 8974748, 8974749, 8974750, 8974751, 8974752, 8974753, 8974754, 8974755, 8974756, 8974757, 8974758, 8974759, 8974760, 8974761, 8974762, 8974763, 8974764, 8974765, 8974766, 8974767, 8974768, 8974769, 8974770, 8974771, 8974772, 8974773, 8974774, 8974775, 8974776, 8974777, 8974778, 8974779, 8974780, 8974781, 8974782, 8974783, 8974784, 8974785, 8974786, 8974787, 8974788, 8974789, 8974790, 8974791, 8974792, 8974793, 8974794, 8974795, 8974796, 8974797, 8974798, 8974799, 8974800, 8974801, 8974802, 8974803, 8974804, 8974805, 8974806, 8974807, 8974808, 8974809, 8974810, 8974811, 8974812, 8974813, 8974814, 8974815, 8974816, 8974817, 8974818, 8974819, 8974820, 8974821, 8974822, 8974823, 8974824, 8974825, 8974826, 8974827, 8974828, 8974829, 8974830, 8974831, 8974832, 8974833, 8974834, 8974835, 8974836, 8974837, 8974838, 8974839, 8974840, 8974841, 8974842, 8974843, 8974844, 8974845, 8974846, 8974847, 8974848, 8974849, 8974850, 8974851, 8974852, 8974853, 8974854, 8974855, 8974856, 8974857, 8974858, 8974859, 8974860, 8974861, 8974862, 8974863, 8974864, 8974865, 8974866, 8974867, 8974868, 8974869, 8974870, 8974871, 8974872, 8974873, 8974874, 8974875, 8974876, 8974877, 8974878, 8974879, 8974880, 8974881, 8974882, 8974883, 8974884, 8974885, 8974886, 8974887, 8974888, 8974889, 8974890, 8974891, 8974892, 8974893, 8974894, 8974895, 8974896, 8974897, 8974898, 8974899, 8974900, 8974901, 8974902, 8974903, 8974904, 8974905, 8974906, 8974907, 8974908, 8974909, 8974910, 8974911, 8974912, 8974913, 8974914, 8974915, 8974916, 8974917, 8974918, 8974919, 8974920, 8974921, 8974922, 8974923, 8974924, 8974925, 8974926, 8974927, 8974928, 8974929, 8974930, 8974931, 8974932, 8974933, 8974934, 8974935, 8974936, 8974937, 8974938, 8974939, 8974940, 8974941, 8974942, 8974943, 8974944, 8974945, 89749

RIISING TRADE DEFICIT

Current account surplus down 82%

By Clarissa S. Batino

A SWOLLEN trade deficit in the first five months has narrowed the country's current account surplus to only \$330 million as of May, down 82.2 percent from a surplus of \$1.851 billion a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

'BSP managing director for research Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said the country could still hit the \$2.356-billion current account surplus target for this year if export growth would accelerate in the coming months.

A trade deficit of \$1.477 billion from January to April this year, against a trade surplus of \$154 million in the same period last year, dragged down the current account surplus despite the increase in the dollar inflow from Filipino offshore workers.

The widening trade deficit has been putting pressure on the coun-

try's external payments.

A declining dollar inflow puts pressure on the country's external reserves and consequently, hits the peso.

The current account covers trade in goods and services, net rent, interest, profits and dividends, which reflect past capital flows that tend to generate income in the future. It also includes fund transfers such as the overseas workers' remittances.

"There was a phenomenal frontloading of imports in the first five months as importers, particularly oil companies, beefed up their inventory. But imports have started to stabilize and together with improving prospects for exports, the current account target is still achievable," said Guinigundo.

Exporters have assured the central bank that a 5-percent growth this year was still attainable despite the slowdown in receipts as of June.

In the first five months, exports grew by only 1.9 percent to \$13.679

billion while imports accelerated by 14.2 percent to \$15.156 billion.

As of May, the balance-of-payments deficit stood at \$534 million against a target of \$1.130 billion.

The BOP indicates the country's ability to settle its obligations and is influenced by the current account and the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

As of May, the capital and financial account posted a deficit of \$1.581 billion, reversing the \$1.763-billion surplus a year ago. Lower net portfolio investments and a deficit in net direct investments swelled the deficit in capital and financial accounts close to the full-year target of a \$2.036 billion deficit.

The external payments are indicators that mirror the flow of foreign exchange. This influences the psychology of the financial market particularly in relation to the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Asean to strengthen advocacy efforts

By Christine A. Gaylican

MEMBER-COUNTRIES of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have agreed to stop acting like a "social club" and to strengthen the group which was facing trade distorting barriers, primarily on farm products, put up by developed countries.

Agriculture Secretary Luis R. Lorenzo yesterday said this was the consensus in the Asean Ministers meeting on agriculture and forestry, which was held last week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Asean member-countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, have finally acknowledged that the group's trade advocacy had been weak, Lorenzo, who represented the country in that meeting, said.

"The group has finally realized that the Asean's trade advocacy has no teeth and that we now have to be confrontational especially on trade issues that hamper our economic growth," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said member-countries had cited in particular the

Philippines' dispute settlement case against Australia for continuously banning Philippine fresh fruit exports.

He said that the Asean had to deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures imposed by developed countries. These measures have become impediments to trade as "they remain non-transparent and unjustifiable."

In a joint press statement, the Asean ministers, during the meeting, have expressed concerns over the unfair trade that has affected the Asean's food, agriculture and forestry products and agreed to form a special task force to look closely into the matter, propose actions and forge the Asean joint approach to collectively address the key international and regional issues and problems on these trade barriers.

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Someone is impersonating me

I MUST warn readers that someone has managed to get hold of my name and domain and is sending out messages to various groups with attachments containing a virus. I do not understand how this can happen but I never send attachments and rarely open them. If you receive a message supposedly coming from me and you are not a friend or subscriber, do not open it. For my part, I am not opening any e-mails from people I do not know so if you wish to contact me, call Abacus Securities. I have informed the Postmaster General six times but I never received any response. This is not one of my jokes!

The Senate has just passed an act allowing the children of illegitimate fathers to use their name. This is good news and allows me to stop hiding behind my pseudonym, Mr. Bearbull. From next week, I will write as Jose Pidal Jr.

The alleged row between President GMA and the TV station with the same initials had nothing to do with a reporter interviewing Honasan INC. Gloria was asking whether she could be the girl in the third series of Meteor Gardens.

I will be holding a seminar on technical analysis. Tickets are available at P10,500 and P5,000. Book now.

Watch out for an interesting IPO next month. It is called RENTASPOUSE.

In New York, the Alzheimer Center is having "An Affair to Remember."

There are few jokes this week because I am not in a humorous mood. I seem to spend most of my time having tests on my non-functioning kidney. If you want to buy a steak in it, I am willing to sell.

Wall Street has been extremely strong this week, apart from some inevitable profit taking on Friday. All the economic news has been positive and confirms Greenspan's assessment that there would be an upturn in the second half. Productivity jumped from 1.9 percent to 5.7 percent and the labor market seems to have stabilized with new claims for unemployment benefits dipping below the critical 400,000 level for the third successive week.

The DOW has risen to a 14-month high and the Nasdaq to a 16-month high. Three top companies in the tech sector have come out with positive guidance for the third quarter. These are DELL, HEWLETT-PACKARD and INTEL, two of the largest computer manufacturers, and the world's biggest chipmaker, aside from PRINGLES. Orders for tech equipment is 10 percent higher than a year ago, so it looks

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

as if companies are upgrading or installing new technology. This will probably be at the expense of hiring new workers so it might be a jobless recovery. Nobody wants a recession but it does some good as it forces companies to become more efficient and I reckon US companies have never been as efficient as they are now. So even without increasing prices, they can generate more profit. For its part, the FED has promised not to raise interest rates any time soon as it does not want to abort a fragile recovery.

The boom in Wall Street has caused the stock markets in many other countries to recover strongly. The NIKKEI added more than 1,000 points in 6 days and there have been strong rallies in Hong Kong, South Korea, Europe, and all Asian markets except ours. We should have participated but instead, we spend all our time contemplating the next coup attempt and pointing the finger at each other. Politicians are doing their very best to deter foreign investment. Yet despite their best endeavors, foreign brokers continue to buy our stocks. Admittedly, the daily average has fallen from P59 million to P44 million, but turnover has dropped considerably, so in percentage terms, foreign brokers are still substantial buyers. They continue to accumulate TEL, MERB and FPH, and on Monday they were net buyers of P103 million, causing our market to rally.

I said the PHISIX would fall last week and it did. We were the only stock market in the galaxy not to go up. Part of the cause I have already explained but the degree of risk had reached 100, so there was nowhere to go but down. At the time of writing this article, the degree of risk, using a weighted, volume-adjusted momentum indicator has fallen to 28.

Normally, the market continues to go down until the degree of risk approaches 20. When it does, it presents a short-term buying opportunity because the long-term trend of the market should be upward. With the US and Japan, the two largest economies in the world, both recovering, there will be more

trade around. Both will be buying from Asian countries and it is up to the government to see that we get our share. At present, investment intended for the Philippines goes to Thailand because their tax incentives are greater. Investment in our special economic zones plummeted in the second quarter. There is not much we can do to prevent companies like Philips transferring production to China because we cannot compete with their low-paid labor force but we must match other countries' tax breaks.

We must concentrate on sending more and more Filipinos abroad as caregivers and nurses. This is a market that will continue to grow indefinitely as people in North America, Japan and Europe live longer and longer. With the new drugs that will appear over the next 10 years, cancer will be largely preventable, heart disease will be controllable and most other diseases eliminated completely. Living to 100 will become the norm. Bob Hope and George Burns did it and by the year 2020, living to 120 will be within reach of those with Medicare or its equivalent.

I have been doing research in biotechnology for the past two years so I am well up on genetics, new drugs, and procedures that will allow drugs to be tailored to our DNA. Amazing medical advances are on the way but to take the maximum advantage of this, we must teach English at Kindergarten level. In high school, we should also be offering courses in Japanese, French, German and Spanish. Anyone wishing to go into business must learn Mandarin.

Over the past 20 years, this country has been falling apart. There have been two Presidents removed by People Power plus several attempted uprisings. The budget deficit has reached alarming proportions and since I came here in 1980, the peso has fallen from 7 to more than 55. At the next election, the electorate must vote for a credible candidate and then support him or her. In the US, there are Republicans and Democrats but in the end, they are all Americans. We must strive for an end to corruption, a determined effort to do away with regional and religious differences, and the will to work together as one nation. It can be done. Lee Kuan Yew did it in Singapore, starting with three ethnic groups and no natural resources. It requires a strong leader and cooperation from all parties. If we cannot do this, we will continue to descend the slippery slope. mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Megaworld to invest P7.5B to develop Villamor property

By Doris C. Dumlaog

UPSCALE property developer Megaworld Corp. plans to invest P7.5 billion to develop the 245,966-square meter Villamor Gateway Center in Pasay City that was recently awarded by the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

In an interview yesterday, Megaworld investor relations officer Luke Tan said the property company, which will call the new project Newport City, would invest these funds to develop the Villamor Air Base property over a seven-year period.

During the first two to three

years, Tan said funding for the project would come from internally generated cash.

"Afterwards, we may look at raising cash from debt or additional shareholders' capital," Tan said.

"We're also looking at a new market niche. We're the first to do the Cyberpark model in Eastwood but in this case we are looking at new products," he said.

Tan said Megaworld planned to put up office buildings to cater to businesses that needed easy access to the airports, such as logistics and technology-related enterprises. However, the complex will also incorporate resi-

dential and commercial areas in addition to a mixture of institutional and community facilities.

"Megaworld's thrust now is large-scale community development. Working on a larger scale development enables us to give our clients better products because of the flexibility allowed by the larger size," Tan said.

Eastwood's 15-hectare Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, Quezon City is a hub for call centers and other IT services but likewise includes high-rise residential and retail developments.

Megaworld, which received the notice of award from the BCDA on Aug. 15, edged out the

Guevent-Pacific consortium during the bidding for development rights to the Villamor Air Base property.

Megaworld earlier committed an initial investment of P1.3 billion, including a cash payment to the BCDA of P415.81 million on top of the state agency's share in the future revenues of the areas to be developed under the joint venture deal.

This initial investment also included P889.33 million that Megaworld would spend for the relocation and clearing of the Villamor Gateway Center in preparation for full-scale development work.

ICTSI to prepay P1B in long-term IOUs

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. will prepay P1 billion worth of long-term commercial papers this September using proceeds from a fresh loan granted by Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. and Equitable PCI Bank.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ICTSI said the company recently secured a total of P1 billion in long-term loans from Insular Life and Equitable PCI.

Insular Life approved a 10-year, fixed-rate, peso-denominated loan worth P500 million while Equitable PCI granted the other

P500 million through a seven-year, floating rate, peso-denominated loan, the disclosure said.

The five-year LTCs were issued in June 1999 and were supposed to mature on June 24 next year. ICTSI will retire the LTCs by Sept. 24 this year, or nine months ahead of maturity.

Earlier, the Philippine Rating Services Corp. upgraded ICTSI's P1-billion LTCs from PRS-A to PRS-Aa on account of the improvement in the company's liquidity position as well as the expected reduction in debt following the sale of its interest in ICTSI International Holdings Corp. to

Hutchison Port Holdings Ltd.

A rating of PRS-Aa is defined as: "Margins of protection may not be as large as in PRS-Aaa issues. Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements which make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger than for PRS-Aaa-rated securities."

PRS Aaa-rated securities, on the other hand, are those with the "smallest degree of investment risk."

For the first six months of the year, ICTSI posted a consolidated net profit of P222 million, much

lower than the profit of P3.4 billion last year when the company booked extraordinary gains from the sale of IIHC.

On a recurring basis, however, net profits actually increased by 13 percent over the comparable net profit of P196 million.

The company said improved top-line revenues resulting from continuing volume growth in existing and new terminals combined with minimal increases in operating costs had enabled ICTSI to produce "very satisfying" operating and financial results during the first half of the year.

Doris C. Dumlaog

60-day transition period on new vehicle taxes seen

From page B1

the new policy.

"I told them that the only flexibility that the government could give at this point is to extend the window for the transition. We could give them a 60-day period. The tentative date for implementation of the law is Oct. 15," the finance official said.

After the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a bicameral version of the amendments to the auto excise taxation last Aug. 12, the government was expecting the law to be signed within this week.

"We believe a 60-day transition period would give the industry enough flexibility to plan their business activities like inventory," Tan said.

Last week, the DOF and the BIR started drafting the implementing rules and regulations for the new excise taxes on automobiles, ensuring that the revenue regulation would

plug all potential loopholes exploited by taxpayers in the past.

An example is the treatment of accessories and whether these should be included in the computation of the price.

The government would have to spell out whether or not the cost of accessories would be part of the taxable base to prevent a situation wherein vehicles would be sold bare to evade tax payments and just add on the accessories after the taxes have been paid.

The passage of the law rationalizing the excise taxation on motor vehicles is expected to reduce the prices of sedans but increase those of 10-seater vehicles.

However, the increase in the cost of 10-seater vehicles should be lower under the new law than if these were to be subjected to a stricter BIR regulation taking effect on Sept. 9.

Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 25, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	4,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	45	45	332,100
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	723,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31.5	168,000
Philippine National Bank	25.5	26	25.5	26	14,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	18,100
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	32,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	124,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	105,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1640	1620	1640	2,750
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.34	396,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1190	1195	1190	1195	320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	61,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
EasyCall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	645	635	640	7,950
People Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	350,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	5,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	7,200,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	1,620,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	545	535	540	203,080
Ivanligue Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	140,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	14.25	13.25	14.25	1,626,200
Manila Electric Co. B	20	21.75	20	21.75	3,949,600
Petron Corp.	2	2	2	2	3,464,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	217,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,154,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3.05	3	3	112,000
Ginbra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	40,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	400,900
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	76,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63.5	64	131,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	242,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wadge Co. Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	13,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	3,642,000
Aberlize Equity Ventures	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	13,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	190,000
APC Group Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	82,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.7	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.64	0.61	0.64	39,670,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	830,000
Fluvest Dev Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	19	18.25	19	176,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.115	0.115	1,160,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	149,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.8	0.88	0.8	0.88	21,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	3,480,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,000,000
Musica Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	5,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	500,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	7,500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.115	0.105	0.11	3,600,000
Solid Group Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3,000
Unimide Holdings Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	200
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Manulay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	2,040,000
Mondragon Int'l Phils Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	1,300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	250,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	27	25	27	317,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series 2	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0012	0.0012	10,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	4,383,000
Cebu Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
C. P. Homes Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	550,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.215	0.2	0.21	4,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	6,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1.06	1	1.06	15,460,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	50,000
Kuck Phil Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,550,000
Full-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	510,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	10,786,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	14,000,000
Philux Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
OIL					
Pacific	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	28,000,000

Businesses ...

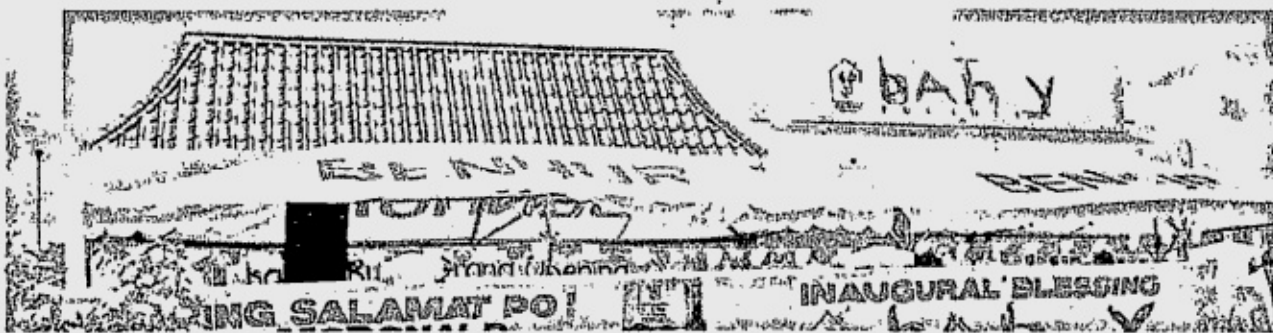
From page B1

cent registered for the third quarter during the previous survey, according to the BSP.

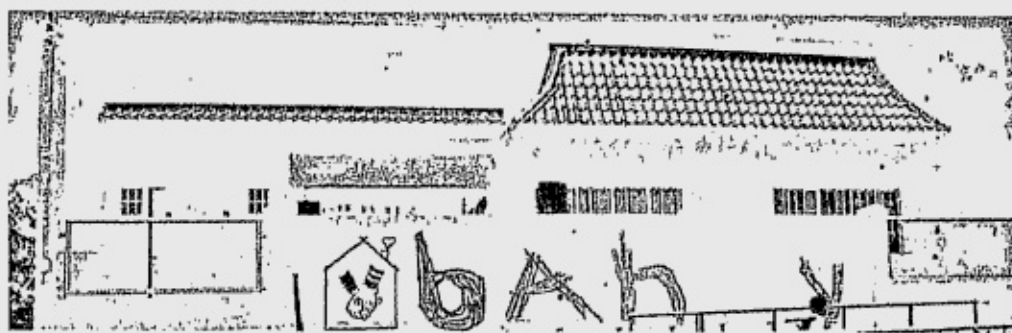
Guinigundo said businesses were anticipating a better financial environment, increased credit access and improved volume of business activity.

Even the employment outlook improved, indicating additional hiring in the fourth quarter as outsourcing and call centers con-

REAL ESTATE



WITH THE SECOND Bahay Bulilit now completed, the Ronald McDonald House Charities is scheduled to build three more by year-end.



NOW that it's been formally turned over, Bahay Bulilit will be under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the city government of Mandaluyong.

Refuge built for poor kids

By Charles E. Buban

IT'S almost 6 a.m. and some 40 young boys and girls are lining up to enter this newly constructed building on M. Martinez Avenue in Mandaluyong City.

Despite the place's resemblance to a fast-food outlet—complete with its red and yellow motif—the children here will not be receiving burgers or even soft drinks.

They'll be receiving much more.

The Bahay Bulilit is actually a day-care center built by the Ronald McDonald House Charities for the children of Barangay Addition Hills, a depressed community in Mandaluyong City.

The RMHC is a nonprofit organization which creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children through its network of 174 local chapters in 44 countries worldwide.

Unique project

"An RMHC project differs from one country to another, and the Bahay Bulilit project is so unique, we were even awarded by the global RMHC," explained RMHC president Kenneth Yang. He was referring to their very first center located in Barangay East Rembo, Makati City.

The Bahay Bulilit in Mandaluyong will accommodate 120 children each school year.

But since the center cannot accommodate all the 120 children at once, their class was divided into three sessions: the first from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., the second from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the third from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Said Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos during the center's turnover rites last week: "With the Bahay Bulilit, we are giving these children and the next batches of children a much brighter future. They will no longer have to loiter in the streets or sidewalks or stay idle in their homes."

Barangay Addition Hills is home to some 17,000 families belonging to the depressed sector of the society.



MAYOR Benhur Abalos gets the full attention of young viewers as he reads to them a children's story during the day-care center's turnover rites. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

"What these poor families' children will learn here is more of values formation, which they will get through story-telling sessions, exercises and plays—in general, we are preparing them for formal schooling," according to Finaro Cabilao of the DSWD external assistance office.

3-way partnership

Although the RMHC shouldered the cost for the construction of the building, its other partners will take care of the center's day-to-day operations.

Said Yang: "This is a three-way partnership since the land, where we constructed the center, was donated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It was also them (DSWD officials) who identified for us where to build the Bahay Bulilit."

While the field unit of DSWD in the city will take care of the curriculum, it will be the Kababaihan Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong, a women's group headed by Carmelita Abalos (the mayor's wife) who will take care of the center's maintenance and operation.

The vision of the RMHC is to build one 'Bahay Bulilit' for every depressed community

Located in depressed barangay

The vision of the RMHC, as Yang revealed, is to build one Bahay Bulilit for every depressed community nationwide.

"Of course, this will not happen overnight but we are committed in accomplishing this mission," he said.

According to Yang, Bahay Bulilit was conceived to help children in depressed communities so they will grow up becoming respectable and responsible members of the community.

He said since the Bahay Bulilit is a nationwide thrust, the RMHC is currently coordinating with the DSWD in identifying the next possible sites for the Bahay Bulilit.

"We look for idle government land near or within a depressed community. In fact, we have already identified several areas for the next Bahay Bulilit sites—Quezon City, Malabon City and Manila," revealed Cabilao.

More in the provinces

Yang is even hoping they could build some day several Bahay Bulilit in the provinces.

If you build one, more will come. At least that's what Yang predicts for the future of Bahay Bulilit, which he hoped will be as many as their fast-food outlet nationwide (240 outlets at present).

He reasoned that McDonald's customers are partly responsible for the Bahay Bulilit since 50 centavos from the price they pay for one Happy Meal goes to RMHC fund.

To date, the RMHC's national body and global network of local chapters have awarded more than \$340 million (P8.7 billion) in grants to children's programs worldwide.

Makati serviced offices now with Peza accreditation

A LEADING international player in the serviced office industry, Regus, is now able to offer its clients the privilege of qualifying for Peza (Philippine Export Zone Authority) accreditation. This came about when The Enterprise Center in Makati City was given economic zone status by Malacañang.

Regus clients who qualify will be able to avail themselves of tax incentives. Only four buildings in Makati CBD are Peza-accredited ecozones—The Enterprise Center, RCBC, GT Towers and PBCOM. Regus is the only business center in Makati able to offer this privilege to its clients.

Said center manager Emmylou Fernandez: "Our current clients have been very happy about the Peza status. Potential clients have also shown great interest. It's definitely given us an extra edge over other serviced office companies in Makati."

Complete office infrastructure

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space for short- and long-term use, meeting and videoconference facilities all supported by a professional business service team. It provides a complete office infrastructure that allows you to walk in, sit down and begin work, without the hassle and time wasting involved in setting up an office yourself.

Regus configures the workstations according to each client's needs. It also allows organizations to reduce or increase the number of workstations as and when needed, offering unparalleled flexibility.

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Tempted to build on your own?

(First of two parts)

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

I HAVE received a lot of letters from our readers asking me if they can manage the construction of their homes on their own since they feel that they can save a lot of money by doing so even though they do not have the knowledge, training and experience for the task. Most of them reason out that since the work is small in scope, maybe they can just make it on their own. To convince them that they have to get professional help, I will explain the reasons in this article.

BUILDING DREAMS

Many owners have the intention of getting the lowest bidder or in short, decide to procure homebuilding services based on price. There is nothing wrong with this mindset—getting the lowest price. It is however important to make sure that the other aspects of the project like quality, schedule and safety are also well addressed.

People who would want to build on their own do not really know what they are heading for. They think that building a home is a very simple matter. Many people think that they will be able to save money if they manage the construction of their home by themselves. To fully understand the risks in building without knowledge and experience, it is best that construction problems due to poor or the total lack of management be discussed.

Construction problems

Defects in construction are mainly caused by poor project management. Management experts would agree with me that 80 percent of construction mistakes are due to poor instructions from superiors in the jobsite and only 20 percent are due to the workers themselves. Defects in construction can be categorized into four items namely:

- **Quality Defects**—Most engineering failures are due to improperly designed and poorly constructed structures. Case studies have shown that in these improperly designed structures, there was a lack of involvement of qualified professionals.

- **Cost Overshoot**—Economy is the second (next to safety) most important requirement in the designer's and builder's mind. Many lot owners, when they build on their own, tend to either over or under design a structure to make up for their lack of understanding of the process.

I have seen a few structures that were built without a design with very big columns (sizes were so large that the two-story house



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

was supported by columns that could carry a five-story building). This would incur additional costs to the owner. On the other extreme, I have also seen houses that are under designed and most of the structural members in the frame are considered unsafe. Both cases are examples of poor engineering.

- **Safety Issues**—Safety is a must for any structure. There are two sides to safety—during construction and during the useful life of the structure. Are you sure that you will be able to construct your house safely? Experienced builders have a strict safety program to make sure that accidents are prevented at the construction site.

The other side to safety is the safety of the house during an earthquake. A house can be standing now but how sure are you that it would not collapse during an earthquake? You can only be sure if it was designed and inspected during its construction by a competent structural engineer.

- **Schedule Delay**—A delayed project costs more money. A contractor knows how to deliver a project step by step and makes sure that delays are avoided. The builder plans ahead and if they see that problems will cause the delay of a project, they make the necessary adjustments by either increasing the workforce or by doing overtime work.

Again, if you plan to build on your own, you might end up facing one or two, if not all of the four construction flaws mentioned earlier.

Rewards of using professional service

The rewards of getting the services of a reputable contractor would eliminate the risks involved if you were to manage the construction of your home by yourself.

Many owners think that they can save a lot of money by giving the job to the one who can offer the lowest cost. Builders who bid below cost may just be eyeing at the down payment that the owner will give them. After you give them the down payment, you may never see them again.

Engineers need fellow engineers

In my work as an engineering consultant, I have seen contractors, engineers and architects buy the services of specialized homebuilding contractors when the time comes for them to build their home. Their main reason is that a house is a specialists' job and not all civil engineers and even architects have the skills, expertise and experience to build their own homes. Homebuilding is just one of the aspects of the engineering and architecture profession. If an engineer still asks the help of a fellow engineer, then it implies that a non-technical person should seek professional advice.

A contractor who specializes in the construction of roads and bridges may still consider buying a ready built house from another contractor. You may be surprised why a contractor bought the services of a homebuilder? Because a road and bridge contractor knows that building a house is a different kind of construction job. It needs a different level and set of skills. Getting an analogy from the medical profession, a brain surgeon with bad eyesight would still seek the advice of an eye specialist even though both of them are doctors.

What then are the skills, talents and resources that a builder has? This will be our topic next week.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952-0684.)



KAHLER and Greenfield Development officials conduct an ocular inspection of the first five holes of what will be about 6,750-yard layout during his visit.

Ayala Greenfield Estates course puts premium on strategy

STRATEGIC play more than brute strength will be the main feature

of the all-weather, Robert Trent Jones Jr.-design course serving as centerpiece of the Ayala Greenfield Estate Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna. "A family oriented style of golf" was how Mike Kahler of the Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects described the mode of play to be offered by the course already shaping up at the vicinity of the foot of fabled Mt. Makiling.

"It's going to be the kind of course where the whole family can come out and enjoy," added the Japan-based Kahler during a recent visit to the site with executives of Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.

Ambitious bid

Putting up a course challenging for the low handicappers but enjoyable for weekend golfers was a prime consideration because the latest Trent Jones project in the country will be the major attraction of the Ayala Greenfield Estate (AGE) in its ambitious bid to become the country's only true golf community.

A golf share comes with the purchase of a lot at the 300-hectare AGE whose Leisure Club will also include a spa and wellness center, a swimming pool, badminton and bowling facilities, a food and beverage center and a separate golf clubhouse.

Ocular inspection

Kahler and Ayala Greenfield Development officials conducted an ocular inspection of the first five holes of what will be about 6,750-yard layout during his visit. Kahler said the fairways will be laid out in such a way that players will have a choice of position and landing area according to their abilities.

The par-72 course gives one a view of Tagaytay on the opening holes and an unhampered sight of the forested slopes of Mt. Makiling for the rest of the front nine. The back nine will be AGE golf's most distinguished attribute as Trent Jones laid out the fairway around the base of one of AGE's prominent hills.

Kahler said the AGE course will be compared favorably with some of the famous Trent Jones creations in the country like the ones at Sta. Elena and Canlubang also in Laguna, the Calatagan course in Batangas and the Pueblo de Oro Layout in Cagayan de Oro.

Golfing masterpiece

Said Kahler: "This is going to be a golfing masterpiece. The course will have its own character that people will come to enjoy and appreciate."

The Tif-eagle Bermuda that has transformed the Sta. Elena greens as one of the truest putting surfaces ever in the Philippines will also be used at the AGE course.



ANOTHER FILIPINO INNOVATION

Robinsons' San Lorenzo Homes, Antipolo, has tapped Vazcom Corp.'s Tegula Filipina concrete roof tiles slurry coated brick orange color to make each home not only esthetically beautiful but also protected because every roof tile adheres to the highest standard. This is truly another Filipino innovation from Vazcom.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Rehab of failed realty projects

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Rehabilitating Failed Real Estate Projects" on Sept. 2 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2 Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Topics include why some projects failed; basic strategy in rehabilitating failed realty projects; general procedures; possible solutions to financial problems; marketing and technical problems; what to watch out; and determination of profitability. Lecturer is engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who is a licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development fund education. He placed first in the real estate appraisers board examination in 1994 and 8th in the real estate appraiser's board. Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Xavier Hills reaches halfway mark

LEADING mid-range developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. has announced that its four-cluster Xavier Hills project in New Manila, Quezon City, has reached the 50 percent completion mark. Meanwhile, all windows for Cluster 1 have been completely installed. Bounded by Granada and N. Domingo Streets in New Manila, Quezon City, The Xavier Hills is expected for completion by the second quarter of 2004. With a total of 524 residential units, the project features deluxe amenities including a clubhouse, swimming and wading pools, children's play area and a row of retail shops.

Cemmap opens new office building

THE CEMENT Manufacturers' Association recently celebrated the blessing of their new office building at No. 1 Corporal Cruz St. corner E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City. Cemmap is the industry association of the country's top manufacturers of cement. Gracing the event were Rep. Edcel Lagman, Pasig City Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo, Rolly Magat and former Philcemcor general manager Lupo Feliciano. Cemmap president Felix Enrico Al-filer welcomed the guests.

LIPA SUBDIVISION

Active Realty and Development Corp. president Antonio Turalba Jr. and Padre Garcia Realty Corp. president Rustico V. Recto Jr. seals with a handshake the joint-venture agreement they recently signed. Active Realty will develop a 55,331 square-meter lot in Lipa City into a first-class residential subdivision to form part of the Mount Malabayat Residential Estates.



Upscale residential condo rises in Makati

UPSCALE residential condominium The Shang Grand Tower is set to become another prestigious landmark in Makati. With its completion targeted for early 2006, it will redefine luxury, elegance, and comfort for the high-end residential market and will certainly reshape the Makati skyline.

The Shang Grand Tower is the latest property development of the Kuok Group here in the Philippines.

Expansion

The Kuok Group is one of Asia's most diversified and dynamic multinational conglomerates.

From trading rice, sugar and wheat flour, it has since expanded its operations to include interests in shipping and transportation, food industries, manufacturing, leisure and recreation, real estate and media. Throughout the Asia-Pacific region, it also owns and manages pieces of property composed of luxury hotels, beach resorts and business hotels, most notable of which is the award-winning Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. Its extensive property assets are found in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, China and Canada.

Kerry Properties Ltd. was formed to hold the Hong Kong and Mainland China property investments and developments and infrastructure interests of the Kuok Group.

Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. or Ephi, KPIs listed associate, is mainly concerned with the ownership, development and management of prime real estate property in the Philippines. Its business interests include the high-end mall Shangri-La Plaza, business crossroads The Enterprise Center, and now, distinguished residential address, The Shang Grand Tower.

Manhattan-type skyscraper

Backed up by such extensive industry experience and exper-



THE SHANG Grand Tower

tise, expect The Shang Grand Tower to create major real estate waves. In the true tradition of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, The Shang Grand Tower will be a Manhattan-type skyscraper standing tall in Makati's central business district, reflecting a soothing mauve hue, verdant tints glinting bright sunny rays like a diamond in the polish.

This 250-unit gem located at the compact corner of a triangle bound by Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in the heart of Legaspi Village, is just a few minutes walk from Glorietta and Greenbelt malls, The Enterprise Center and other major business establishments.

The design of The Shang Grand Tower is a collaboration between Hong Kong-based Palmer and Turner and renowned Filipino architects, Recio & Casas.

Unparalleled view

"The Shang Grand Tower will be a major addition to the Makati skyline," principal architect Carmelo T. Casas confirms. "One who takes up residence in The Shang Grand Tower is living right in the middle of the Central Business District. If he takes one look out of the window, he'll get an unparalleled view not just of Makati, but of key points in the metropolis that are important to him, his family and his business. He gets a picturesque sunset from the west, then from the east, his horizon stretched from the Makati skyline to the Manila Bay, the Quezon City area, then to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport."

In designing the exteriors of The Shang Grand Tower, the architects adhered to one basic philosophy. Casas further explains: "We don't want The Shang Grand Tower to be like any other building. The exteriors clearly distinguish it from the other tall structures in the area, which are mainly 'corporate.' The color of The Shang Grand Tower has to be residential—because it is. We decided to use green tinted glass for the overall look and mauve as painted textures for the finishes. Nor will you see the air-conditioning units bulging out as is the case with most buildings. We've concealed them in the ledges."

Accessible location

Its Makati location easily makes business and pleasure accessible to its residents. With several water features included in the structure as a result of consultations with top geomancers, The Shang Grand Tower places a premium on its privacy and security as well. Though residents live at the center of it all, they are sheltered from the stresses of the day-to-day challenges experienced at street level.

Casas remarks: "All the bedroom units are located above the

fifth floor, safely above the noise and din of traffic."

2 elegant lobbies

The Shang Grand Tower boasts of having two separate elegant lobbies, serving each of the two zones in the building. Each lobby is serviced by three high-speed elevators for the comfort and privacy of the residents.

The low zone, composed of one- and two-bedroom units, is located from the sixth to the 26th floors. The high zone consists of the following residences: from the 27th to the 30th floors, one- and two-bedroom units; from the 31st to the 42nd floors, there are four three-bedroom units; the 43rd and 44th floors consist of special two- and three-bedroom units; while the two grand penthouses occupy the 45th and 46th floors.

The one-bedroom units have an area of 80 square meters. The two-bedroom units range from 130 to 160 sq. m., and the three-bedroom units are from 238 to 275 sq. m. In all units, the master's bedrooms have separate toilets, showers, bathtubs and walk-in closets.

Amenities floor

Just below the 6th floor is the Amenities Floor, which effectively shields the rest of the higher floors. Likewise, it is a haven for residents, a comfort zone where they can relax and unwind in the gym and fitness centers, function rooms, tropical garden and pool, and other luxurious features.

Parking space is amply provided for in four levels at the basement and three levels at the podium. Each one-bedroom unit comes with one car parking space, while two slots are allotted for the two- and three-bedroom units. More car parking spaces can be purchased as necessary, and visitors are also allowed their own parking areas.

"The building will be incomparable," enthuses Casas. "You won't see anything like it."

Developer a condo specialist by choice

REAL estate developer and Triple "A" contractor E. Ganson Inc. reveals its choice to develop condominiums only, resorts and hotels. Founder engineer Eulalio Ganson has, in the past three decades, been involved in the construction of all types of structures. But, the work he enjoyed most to accomplish was building homes for his clients. An innovator by heart, Ganson is the inventor of methods and procedures in construction that he has patented with the Intellectual Property Office.

"These inventions," Bobby de Castro, EGI

vice president for external affairs recalls, "were dedicated all the time to improve methods and systems of construction for the ultimate benefit of homeowners."

As a result, savings in time, expenses, labor and materials are realized for the beneficial end-users or even investors in buildings EGI constructed. Realizing that shelter is the most critical project, from his point of view as a builder in the urban centers of the country, EGI embarked on the construction of condominiums in Metro Manila since 21 years ago. It was

a pioneering effort which paid off. The vision transformed the skylines of the megalopolis in areas where the big developers then dared not tread and soon others followed suit, raising the quality of life for urban dwellers.

"The efficient use of space in urban centers with convenience, affordability, suitability with the environment, security, privacy and ease of maintenance, are among the factors that lead me to choose building condominium projects," confided the unassuming head of the EGI Group of Companies.

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OBITUARIES

The GROUND SPECIALISTS, INC.

commemorates the *Sixth Death Anniversary* of its
Founding Partner

ENGR. TITUS C. VILLANUEVA JR.

(20 January 1964 – 26 August 1997)

in the *Holy Sacrifice* of the mass at:

1. Our Lady of Annunciation Parish 6:00 PM
Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
2. Blessed Sacrament Parish 6:30 PM
Brgy. Talipapa, Quezon City
3. Sto. Domingo Church 6:30 PM
Quezon Blvd., Quezon City
4. Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice 12:00 Noon
U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
5. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish 6:00 PM
U.P. Village, Quezon City
6. St. Ignatius Cathedral 7:30 AM
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
7. Mother Mary of Good Counsel 6:30 AM
Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City
8. San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish 6:30 AM
Congressional Village, Quezon City
9. Holy Trinity Parish 6:00 AM
Ideal Subdivision, Quezon City
10. Immaculate Conception Parish Church .. 6:00 AM
Plaza Rizal, Pasig City
11. Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne 6:00 AM
Sta. Ana, Taguig, Metro Manila
12. St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish 6:00 AM
Ususan, Taguig, Metro Manila
13. San Juan de Nepomuceno Parish 6:00 AM
Sum-ag, Bacolod City

and requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal
repose of his soul.

"There the Lord has lavished blessings, life forevermore."

On the Occasion of the

9th Death Anniversary of

NINA ESTRADA PUYAT

Today, August 26, 2003

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

- 1) SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO 6:15 and 7:30 am;
Forbes Park, Makati 12:15 and 6:00 pm
- 2) COLEGIO DE SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL 6:45 pm
Dasmarillas Village, Makati
- 3) ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH 6:30 am
Pasay Road, Makati
- 4) STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL 5:45 pm
Greenbelt, Makati
- 5) ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE 6:30 pm
62 Constellation St., Bel-Air
- 6) NAT'L SHRINE OF SACRED HEART OF JESUS 7:00 am
Dao, Makati
- 7) ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI CHURCH 7:00 am
Magallanes Vill., Makati
- 8) OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE 5:30 pm
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.
- 9) ST. FRANCIS DE ASSISI CHURCH 6:00 pm
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong
- 10) ST. PETER PARISH CHURCH 7:00 pm
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

*"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come."*
Psalm 23:6

ROSENDO M. MANLAPAT, SR.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on August 24, 2003 at the age of 78.

His loving wife Floer ; children Jess & Sonia, Jun, Ross &
Dina, Rudolph & Rinda. Soky; grandchildren: Tania, Kitty, JC,
Czarina, Kim, Carla, Michelle, Jun Jun, Tobie, Trish, Coleen,
Ryan, Mark, Denise; brothers & sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends
request the pious readers to offer prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta
Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 30, 2003 at the Holy Cross
Memorial Park, Novaliches Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

PACIFICO SUMUGAT VILLA, SR.

Died peacefully on August 24, 2003 at the age of 65.

His loving wife Anita; children Dindo, Obet, Mary Ann, Mary
Jane, Bernard & Pacithel; grandchildren, relatives and friends
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla D. Arlington East The Garden
Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 29, 2003 at the San Felipe
Neri after the Mass at Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

FRANCISCO LAPUZ VINUYA

of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija
and Block 12 Lot 7 Golden City, Taytay, Rizal
Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 24, 2003 at the age of 74.

His loving wife Milagros Gallela-Vinuya; children Ferdie
& Nelda, grandchildren Luigi, Raphael and Gabriel, sister
Maring V. del Rosario and brother Pepe, nephews and nieces,
and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal
repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapel,
1354 C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
until August 26, 2003. On August 27, 2003, he will be transferred
to Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on August 30, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m.
Mass.

Beatriz "Bating" Reyes-Feliciano

of Quezon City and Balagtas, Bulacan

was called home on Saturday, 23 August 2003 at age 81.

She is survived by her husband Gregorio, sister and in-law Dr. Milla & Engr. Virgilio Rey-Matias, nephews and nieces:
Dr. Reynaldo & Milla, Virgilio Jr. & Flordeliza and their spouses, Wilfredo, Teresita, Elusa, Marlissa, Elenita, Dr. Conrado
Quibnel and their spouses

Her wake is at Dayao Funeral Homes, Calas, Quezon City and will be transferred to Villa Virgen Milagrosa Resort Chapel,
Borol, Balagtas, Bulacan on August 27, 2003. Funeral Mass will be at 2:00 p.m. Interment will be at the Family Mausoleum,
Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Wakas, Bocane, Bulacan.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines,
The Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC)
The Missionary Sisters of Mary (MSC)

announce the return to the Father of

The Most Rev. Carlos van den Ouwelant, MSC, DD

Bishop Emeritus of Surigao

* July 3, 1911 in Zundert, The Netherlands
+ August 22, 2003 in Butuan City

His remains will be transferred today, August 26, 2003 to
Surigao City from the MSM Sisters House
in Baan, Butuan City at 1:00 p.m.

Burial will be on Saturday, August 30, 2003 after the
Funeral Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the
San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral, Surigao City.

Wake: August 26 and 27 - MSC House, Surigao City
28 and 29 - San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral, Surigao City
30 - Funeral Mass 8:00 a.m.
Burial (Surigao Cathedral)

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

SISTER ELICIA, S.Sp.S. (FRANCISCA BERNARDO TAMBUNTING)

on August 25, 2003 at the age of 97
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered
on Wednesday, August 27, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.

At the Convent of the Holy Spirit 8 Poinsettia Road,
Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

**"...absent
with the
body
to be
present
with the
Lord."**

2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid
for the Supply and Delivery of Forty (40) Sets Diving Suits (Rebreathers) for the Philippine Navy,
with an approved budget of Twenty Four Million Pesos (Php24,000,000.00) chargeable against
the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will only be available for issuance starting August 20, 2003 until September 9,
2003 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability,
Material and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General
Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of Two Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos
(Php2,400.00), which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in
favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted
starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to
purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on September 9, 2003 at 09:00 AM (local time) at the Silid
Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders
may submit their queries/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working
days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on
September 23, 2003 at 08:30 AM (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 09:00 AM at
the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the
grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or
losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO G CAROLINA
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Aug 20 & 28, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
Ipl, Zamboanga Sibugay

Third Elementary Education Project

Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

August 23, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International
Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third
Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover
eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders
from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines Procurement under IBRD Loans
and IDA Credits.
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders
with PCAB License Category Medium B for the various Construction and Repair/
Rehabilitation of School Building Projects Clustered in the following Packages:

PACKAGE 1: ZSNBC - 2003 - 01 - 69 (4 NC and 16 RR)
for the Municipalities of Ipl, Titay and Tungawan
PACKAGE 2: ZSNBC - 2003 - 02 - 70 (2 NC and 18 RR)
for the Municipalities of Kabasalan, Naga and Slay
PACKAGE 3: ZSNBC - 2003 - 03 - 71 (1 NC and 22 RR)
for the Municipalities of Buug, Dipihan and Malangas
PACKAGE 4: ZSNBC - 2003 - 04 - 72 (2 NC and 12 RR)
for the Municipalities of Alicia and Payao
PACKAGE 5: ZSNBC - 2003 - 05 - 73 (3 NC and 12 RR)
for the Municipalities of Mabuhay, Olutanga and Talusan
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga,
Sibugay with address at Tirso Bablera, Ipl, Zamboanga Sibugay for a nonrefundable
fee of P 3,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at
the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be
accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered
to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office
Zamboanga Sibugay, Barangay Tirso Bablera, Ipl, Zamboanga Sibugay on or before
9:00 AM, September 25, 2003 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the
bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) ROGELIO A. GOMEZ
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Aug. 26, 2003)



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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Supply and Delivery of One Hundred Sixty Seven (167) units – LAN WORKSTATION

Approved Budget: Php 9.185M
Contract Duration up to October 31, 2003

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from August 27 to 29, 2003 at the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than September 8, 2003 addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

Procurement Services Division/PSM

6/F, Development Bank of the Philippines

Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

Fax no. 8151614, E-mail address: procure-psm@devbankphil.com.ph

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 50 s. 2002 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone number 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 19 & 26, 2003)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Supply and Delivery of Forty-eight (48) units – Laser Printer

Approved Budget: Php 860,000.00
Contract Duration up to October 31, 2003

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from August 27 to 29, 2003 at the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than September 8, 2003 addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

Procurement Services Division/PSM

6/F, Development Bank of the Philippines

Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

Fax no. 8151614, E-mail address: procure-psm@devbankphil.com.ph

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 s. 2002 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone number 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 19 & 26, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (Administrative Order No. 001, 2. 1988)

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following services for Year 2004:

A. PUBLIC BIDDING	B. SEALED BIDDING
1. Canteen Concessioning/Catering	1. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program
2. HMO	2. Garbage Disposal
3. Housekeeping	3. Rental of Drinking Fountains
4. Preventive Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals	4. Sanitizers and Deodorizers
5. Rental of Copier Machines	5. Subscription to Cable Television
6. Rental of Shuttle Bus	6. Supply of Flowers
7. Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines	7. Preventive Maintenance of 360T York Chillers
8. Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews	
9. Supply of Gasoline	
10. Senate Secretariat Male Uniform	
11. Senate Secretariat Female Uniform	
12. Timekeeping System	
13. ECG System (PC-base)	
14. Delibrillator	
15. Printing & binding of RECORD OF THE SENATE (July 24-Oct 2, 2000) and JOURNAL OF THE SENATE (Vol. 1, July 27-Dec. 23, 1998; Vol. II, Jan. 18-June 3, 1999)	

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from September 1-5, 2003. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on September 12, 2003. **Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained.** All applicants shall be notified on the result of the prequalification proceedings. **ONLY PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS SHALL BE ISSUED THE APPROVED SCOPE OF WORKS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR BIDDING.**

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. Late bids will be rejected.

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City. Schedule of conferences for services under this category, if any, will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

The winning bidder(s) for each category shall post a Performance Bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts, the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Aug 26, 27 & 28, 2003)



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Qualification Guidelines:

- Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- At least 2 years design/installation/service experience with Air-conditioning/Refrigeration Systems Manufacturer or with Services Contractor. Refrigeration expertise preferred.
- Strong technical expertise in analyzing and diagnosing problems in refrigerant circuits
- Proven ability to troubleshoot problems and to bring them to a satisfactory resolution with customers
- High comfort level with web and computer tools needed
- Very good oral and written English communication skills

INSIDE SALES ENGINEERS

The candidates will respond to product related inquiry through phone, e-mail and fax. They will need to maintain strong and close relationship with customers.

Qualification Guidelines:

- Graduate of any B.S. degree, preferably in Engineering
- Tele-sales experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- High attention to details
- Right attitude, skills and personality to be trained to support customers in both technical and commercial areas

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Zamboanga del Sur
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
Bids and Awards Committee



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

August 25, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
- The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK	PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
ZDS-NCB-01/02-001	AURORA, Zambo. del Sur	Refer to Bidding Documents for Details	NC-4 CL	R/R-17 ARC	Sept. 25, 2003; 9 AM
ZDS-NCB-16/17-002	MAHAYAG, Zambo. del Sur	---	NC-3 CL	R/R-18 ARC	Sept. 25, 2003; 2 PM
ZDS-NCB-20/28-003	MOLAVE/TAMBULIG Zamboanga del Sur	---	NC-3 CL	R/R-19 ARC	Sept. 26, 2003; 9 AM
ZDS-NCB-30/31-005	TUKURAN, Zambo. del Sur	---	NC-2 CL	R/R-21 ARC	Sept. 26, 2003; 2 PM
ZDS-NCB-19/26-004	MIDALIP/SOMINOT, Zamboanga del Sur	---	NC-3 CL	R/R-18 ARC	Sept. 29, 2003; 9 AM
ZDS-NCB-03-006	BAYOG, Zambo. del Sur	---	NC-2 CL	R/R-20 ARC	Sept. 29, 2003; 2 PM
ZDS-NCB-11-007	KUMALARANG, ZDS	---	NC-1 CL	R/R-17 ARC	Sept. 30, 2003; 9 AM
ZDS-NCB-15/24-008	L A P U Y A N / S A N MIGUEL Zamboanga del Sur	---	NC-1 CL	R/R-22 ARC	Sept. 30, 2003; 2 PM

Notes: NC-new construction; R/R- Repair/Rehabilitation; CL-Classrooms

- Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of P3,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on September 8, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City. (Sgd.) ERLINDA C. SALERA
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Aug. 26, 2003)

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BUSINESS

Asia to grow 5.5% in 5 years; risks seen: EIU

SINGAPORE—Asia-Pacific economies are expected to grow faster than other regions in the next five years but expansion could be disrupted in the short term by several risks including a US slowdown and a resurgence of the SARS epidemic, a report said Monday.

In its latest projections, the Economist Intelligence Unit

(EIU) predicted that gross domestic product (GDP) in the Asia-Australasia region excluding Japan will enjoy the fastest average annual expansion rate of 5.5 percent in 2003-2007 compared with other areas.

But the performance will be a shadow of the growth experienced before the 1997-1998 Asian finan-

cial crisis, the EIU said.

In the near term, the projected improvement in the region's performance is due to the brighter outlook for the global economy, particularly that of the US which is a major market for Asia's export-dependent economies, it said.

However, a number of risks threaten to halt Asia's upward

momentum, the EIU said.

These include a resurgence of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic, a slowdown in US consumer spending and continued sluggishness in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) members, it said.

"World economic performance

has improved in recent weeks...

nevertheless, there remain serious problems in some of the world's largest economies, and our upgraded forecasts still suggest that the OECD will take until late 2004 to reach even a trend pace of growth," the EIU said.

"Emerging Asia is particularly likely to be affected by these

trends. Sales into the OECD are rising only slowly and many countries are relying instead on exports to China and efforts to boost domestic demand," it said.

The EIU also warned a resurgence of SARS, which struck mainly East Asia and claimed more than 800 lives globally, cannot be ruled out. **AFP**

WTO officials seek free trade breakthrough

GENEVA—Top World Trade Organization officials on Sunday put forward a compromise plan aimed at breaking a deadlock in free trade talks.

The blueprint is a draft declaration for trade ministers to agree on at a meeting in Cancun, Mexico, next month that could decide the fate of the troubled Doha Round of trade liberalization negotiations.

The negotiations, launched in the Qatari capital at the end of 2001 to give a boost to a flagging world economy, have missed several deadlines, with differences over agriculture proving a major obstacle.

The new text, drawn up by the chairman of the WTO's executive General Council, Uruguayan Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, and backed by WTO Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, seek to bridge a gap between major farm exporting countries and the European Union and the United States.

It will be put to a two-day meeting of the Council, beginning on Monday, which is intended to smooth the way to an accord at the Cancun meet from Sept. 10-14.

On agriculture, the Perez del Castillo plan drew heavily on ideas floated by the EU and the United States, which settled their long-running disagreements in a ground-breaking deal on farm reform earlier in the month. **Reuters**



A GROUP of Mainland Chinese tourists pass through the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's economy is expected to recover from the drastic impact of the SARS crisis faster than previously anticipated, with high hopes pinned on cash-rich visitors from China. **AFP**

Japan trade surplus up 7.3% to \$6.8B

TOKYO—Japan's trade surplus in July rose 7.3 percent from a year earlier to 799.2 billion yen (\$6.8 billion) as robust exports to Asia offset sluggish demand in the United States, the government said Monday.

Overall exports for the month increased 5.6 percent to 4.64 trillion yen, while imports rose 5.3 percent to 3.85 trillion yen, the finance ministry said.

Shipments to Asia were up "for the 17th consecutive month due to strong demand for semiconductors, electronics parts and audio visual equipment parts used mainly in cellular phones," a ministry official said.

The trade surplus with the rest of Asia jumped 16.7 percent to 464.7 billion yen from a year earlier as exports grew 12.7 percent to 2.17 trillion yen and imports rose 11.6 percent to 1.71 trillion yen.

Japan's trade deficit with China shrank 10.6 percent to 160.6 billion yen as exports hit a record high.

Increased demand for expensive products such as aircraft parts, telecoms equipment—shipments of 'i-mode' mobile phones doubled—and sports-utility vehicles pushed up exports to Europe, said the finance ministry official. **AFP**

China GDP seen growing by 7% in 2003

BEIJING—China's 2003 gross domestic product will almost certainly grow by 7 percent, and possibly 8 percent, despite the SARS outbreak, state press reported Monday.

China needs to solve six major problems in order to maintain its rapid economic development which is "almost certain" to reach seven percent, if not eight percent, said Qiu Xiaohua, deputy director of the National Bureau of Statistics.

But lackluster consumption, an underdeveloped service industry, high unemployment, low rural income, the rapid growth in bank loans and duplicated construction in certain industries are all problematic areas, he was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency.

China must take measures to stimulate consumption to maintain the equilibrium of economic development, as investment contributed 70 percent of GDP growth in the first

half, a ratio much higher than the global average, Qiu said.

Meanwhile, the underdeveloped service industry is resulting in increasing numbers of unemployed, with the number of registered urban unemployed hitting 8 million at end of June for an official unemployment rate of 4.2 percent.

In addition, over investment in the textile and steel industries has brought about excessive supply and fierce competition in these markets. **AFP**

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Drinking too much water dangerous for runners

ANYONE who is into serious exercise learns from experience that not drinking enough fluid equals less energy. Dehydration can negatively affect athletic performance because less fluid is available for the heart, muscles and joints to perform efficiently.

Over the years, athletes and recreational exercisers have become well educated about the dangers of not drinking enough fluid during exercise.

The current standard advice given to athletes is that they should not rely on their thirst, because by the time they feel truly thirsty, they are already quite dehydrated. Therefore, they should drink according to a set formula even if they are not thirsty.

Athletes have also been advised that proper hydration will prevent heat-related illnesses like cramps, exhaustion and stroke.

This line of thinking is now being challenged by scientists like Dr. Tim Noakes of the University of Capetown, South Africa and the USA Track and Field (USATF), the United States governing body of track and field, long-distance running and race walking, because of a deeper understanding of the thirst mechanism and heat illness and increasing cases of hyponatremia (low sodium level) due to over-hydration among athletes.

According to Noakes, previous studies recommended that athletes drink copious amounts of fluid because they found a link between dehydration and a rise in core body temperature.

"The sensible conclusion was that dehydration was the single greatest risk to the health of marathon runners because it would cause the body temperature to rise, leading to heat illness, including heat stroke," Noakes writes in an advisory paper for the USATF.

However, Noakes believes past studies were in error because many of them were done in laboratory conditions much hotter than those in actual races. Temperate countries hold races in spring or fall and tropical countries hold races early in the morning, so real-life race conditions are very different from the lab-simulated ones.

Noakes also points out that many of the

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan



past studies did not take into account "facing wind speed" or the cooling effect of the wind as a runner races.

Noakes says that newer scientific research has revealed that dehydration is not the major factor in hyperthermia or heat illness. The reality is that heat stroke can occur even when the athlete is well-hydrated, because the main factors are the intensity of the race (shorter distance races like 10K runs have a higher intensity in a shorter amount of time), athletes' body mass (those with greater body mass generate more heat than lighter ones), high environmental temperatures and humidity and still wind conditions (there will be less cooling effect on the skin).

The USATF warns that "an adequately hydrated runner who is running too fast or pushing herself too hard, especially in hot and humid conditions, can fall victim to hyperthermia. It is important that athletes adjust their pace to take into consideration race conditions, slowing their pace as heat and humidity rises, regardless of how much they may be drinking."

Hyponatremia

Dr. Lewis Maharam, chair of the International Marathon Medical Directors Association (IMMDA), told writer Patricia Amend of Ace Fitness Matters that "medical directors of major marathons around the world are seeing more people in the hospital from over-drinking, and even some deaths from hyponatremia."

Hyponatremia is a condition where there is too much water in the blood and too little sodium. According to Dr. Douglas Casa of the USATF, hyponatremia occurs most frequently in sports that last longer than four hours because this gives the athletes more time to



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Heat stroke can occur even when a runner is adequately hydrated if he's pushing too hard

drink and to lose large amounts of sodium through prolonged sweating.

But the condition can also occur in any sport when athletes drink large volumes of fluid without adequate sodium intake.

According to Casa, commercial sports drinks have a low sodium level in order to make them appetizing for the general public. Although they are preferable to plain water for endurance athletes, there is still a danger of hyponatremia if athletes drink excessive amounts.

Most at risk are the slower runners at the middle and back of the race, because they take much longer to finish than the elite runners at the front. This means that they will probably be stopping to drink at the many water stations along the course of the race.

According to Maharam, the Houston marathon is the first in the US to decrease the

number of water stations to prevent runners from drinking too much. "European marathons have already done this, and we're seeing fewer problems with hyponatremia," he said to Amend.

Casa says that runners, coaches and medical staff must be well-versed in recognizing the signs of hyponatremia because if they mistake it for heat stroke, they will do more harm by giving the athlete fluid, whether orally or intravenously.

Hyponatremia can be tricky to diagnose because it mimics many of the signs of heat stroke such as nausea, vomiting, extreme fatigue, respiratory distress, dizziness, confusion, disorientation, coma and seizures.

Hyponatremia's unique characteristics, aside from low sodium levels (less than 130 mmol/L), are a progressively worsening

DRINKING/C3



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VIPs celebrate birthdays and job well done



AFTER two and a half years, Victor Consunji and Celine Lopez go their separate ways.



WEDDING bells on Dec. 21 for beautiful twosome Cecilia "Iya" Tuason Guingona and mechanical engineering grad Jose Manuel "JM" Florendo Lagdameo



IT'S all over for Victoria London and Rustan's U dude Joel Tantoco.



IN DEMAND *alta moda* couturier Monique Lhuillier, now making waves in New York and Beverly Hills, with her husband, CEO Tom Buglee



THE HAPPY couple, managing director Pia Villavicencio-Lago and Dwight Lago at the blessing and inauguration of the newly renovated Kamayan Restaurant in Padre Faura



IT'S all in the family: Veejay's wife Treena, Veejay, Mara, Cara and Bokie at the Kamayan restaurant reopening

WHEN man of vision Dick Gordon was appointed tourism secretary by then newly installed President Macapagal-Arroyo, dahlings, Dick asked several members of his gang where they brought the *balikbayan* and tourists who visited Manila. The frequent response was the malls or Boracay for out of town. This challenged Dick boy to create a place where we could go and have a sense of history—and voila—Intramuros was to be "the" tourist destination.

Well, his friends shared his vision. So, in informal gatherings, Secretary Gordon talked to them about how, "I want people to stroll along the cobbled stones of the streets of Intramuros, ride the *calesa*, walk on top of the walls and feel the glorious days of the past."

WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

Power women like Betsy Tenchavez, Precy Ramos, Charo Apacible, Dolly Galang, Susan Grau, Ruby Ruazon, Susan Medina, Girlie Ng, Linda Tan, Mano Morales, Del Buendia, Mila Querubin, Lolet Carillo, Cristy Zialcita, Tess Balaguer, Cora Antonio, GNC's top gal Maryanne Borromeo and Joey Delfino immediately got together wanting to be part of that vision and make it a reality.

They incorporated their group as Volunteers for Intramuros Preservation (VIPs). Their first project was to light up the place with old European-style lamp posts. But they needed more, "So please! Calling kind-hearted and generous donors!" the ladies appealed.

As we all know, or should know, Intramuros is now the "in" place. Every other week, different regions showcase their crafts, wares and delicacies. Local tourists from all walks of life are flocking to Intramuros now and feeling history come alive in the center of Manila. There is music in every *baluarte*, portrait paintings and *calesa* ride tours amid the ruins and grandeur of beautiful Intramuros.

With the on-going success of their work, the gang of VIPs honored their birthday celebrators, attractive Betsy Tenchavez and Charo Apacible, at the *Baluarte de Santa Lucia*, a couple of nights ago, *palanggas*.

Diet and calorie counting were thrown out the window, *palanggas*, as the gals dug into the yummy buffet catered by Barbara's. Entertainment was provided by Pat Castillo with Secretary Gordon gamely singing along. The breezy evening, lit by a full moon and bright stars, got even brighter with the gorgeous fire works.

Flamenco show at UP

Tatyana Balashova. The name is so Russian, but this talented woman is a fantastic flamenco dancer. The daughter born of a Russian father and British mother, decided to come all the way to cosmo Manila with her "friend," Filipino guitarist Adolfo Timuat, to teach flamenco dancing to the University of the Philippines' dance majors.

After a brief course, everything is set for Tatyana and her students to present at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28, at the UP's Abelardo Hall, some famous fiery flamenco dances like Tangos, Alegrias and exciting, palpitating Sevillanas, to the haunting guitar of Adolfo T. All you lovers of flamenco should not miss this wonderful show. Check it out, *palanggas*. You'll surely leave the hall stomping your feet and clapping your hands all the way home.

Food business leader

The Villavicencios could very well be the First Famille of Food, particularly the buffet biz, in the Philippines.

In the local restaurant industry, the Villavicencios have always been a leader when it comes to inventive ideas. Now something new is cooking in the Villavicencio kitchen, dahlings.

Needless to say, it's a new exciting brew that will be spearheaded by second-generation Villavicencios, the grown-up heirs of food whiz Vic-Vic: Victor Sixto Jose or Veejay, Patricia Marina or Pia, Margarita or Mara, and Cristina Maria or Cara.

The famille's tres successful Kamayan, Saisaki and Dad's (along with Triple V Express) chain of restos is celebrating its silver anniversary this year with a slew of thrilling changes.

Shall we brace ourselves for a younger, more hip and happening Kamayan, Saisaki and Dad's for 2003?

"I started summer jobs when I was 9," Pia remembers. "When we were in grade school and high school, we went through



THE BIG ONES. Betsy Tenchavez, Dick Gordon, Charo Apacible, Fred and Precy Ramos. Seated are Mano Morales, Cristy Zialcita and Kate Gordon.



A SINGING star is born. Dick Gordon sings along with a guitarist and Pat Castillo.



SHANGHAI! Lily del Buendia



VIP coordinator Joey Delfino

Women volunteers have helped make Intramuros the new 'in' place

everything."

"I worked as a busboy," Veejay recalls. "Then I went to purchasing, marketing, even the sushi bar. It was not just a matter of knowing, but of experiencing the business."

The twins Mara and Cara, who were both enrolled in De La Salle University then, worked as receptionists in the clan's restaurants.

Mara, for her part, learned the value of their personnel. "It's all about being one with your people. If you are friends with them, if you take care of them, they will take care of you."

"When we go out with our friends on gimmick nights, we observe and take note of the new things out there," Mara and Victor say.

"We give our suggestions; we brainstorm," Veejay volunteers. "And our dad always asks us what's new."

Cara chimes in, "That's why we are coming up with new ideas to bring in younger people my age!"

"For Dad's three restos were pushing the ultimate buffet," Veejay adds. "For only P395 to P495, you have a choice of over 150 dishes. For Saisaki, aside from the buffet, (we are adding) the Shokuji meals for P225 to P250. As for Kamayan, on top of the over 50 dishes on the menu, we are adding a new feature: 20 sizzling and grill dishes," popular among Manila's hip pack.

"You don't have to pay extra," Pia elaborates. "It's part of the Kamayan buffet price of P275."

Speaking of bright changes, the 23-year-old Padre Faura Kamayan was renovated and could now accommodate 400 to 450 people from Manila's Chinese community, government officials, civil servants, foreigners and *balikbayan* tourists.

With the vivacious and vibrant Villavicencio siblings at the helm, Kamayan, Saisaki and Dad's will surely celebrate more sterling anniversaries in the future.

After all *palanggas*, for the Villavicencios, food is a celebration!

Spotting them

"Breaking up is hard to do," as the song goes but, for many, there are always obvious reasons why they let go.

One of cosmo Manila's brilliant writers and party gals, Celine Lopez, did just that. After two and a half years of constantly being with her man in town or abroad, she made up her mind, "It's not worth the anguish of what I was going through, but I'm perfectly okay now," Celine told *moi* while we chatted the other night. Her boyfriend, Victor Consunji, is cool about the breakup, but both remain friends. The cause? Well, it's better not to discuss it for the sake of Celine and Victor.

Next we have this beautiful young couple who are all set to say their "I do's" real soon. They are cosmo Manila's most-sought-after eligible

bachelor and royalette. Young miss with the 4Bs, tall gorgeous eyecatcher Cecilia "Iya" Tuason Guingona, is an Interdisciplinary Studies graduate of Ateneo de Manila and the daughter of old-wealth socialite Marilou Tuason, former wife of mega businessman Joe Guingona. And super elusive gent about town, handsome, Jose Manuel "JM" Florendo Lagdameo, is a graduate of Mechanical Engineering from Leigh, Pennsylvania in the United States.

After a short year of togetherness, their engagement has been announced by both families. At Soiree's, Iya proudly showed off her four-karat, clear-white cut diamond engagement ring.

The big day is set for Dec. 21 this year, *palanggas*. The lovers met through the uncle of the future bride, banker and business entrepreneur Raul Manzano.

More break-ups: Rustan's U boy, Joel Tantoco, and his gal of a year or so, sultry Victoria London have also broken up—again. "This time it's really final, over and out," one of their friends told me. Actually, this is the third time that Joel and Victoria have split up. But then, who knows? Love can be better the fourth time around, can't it?

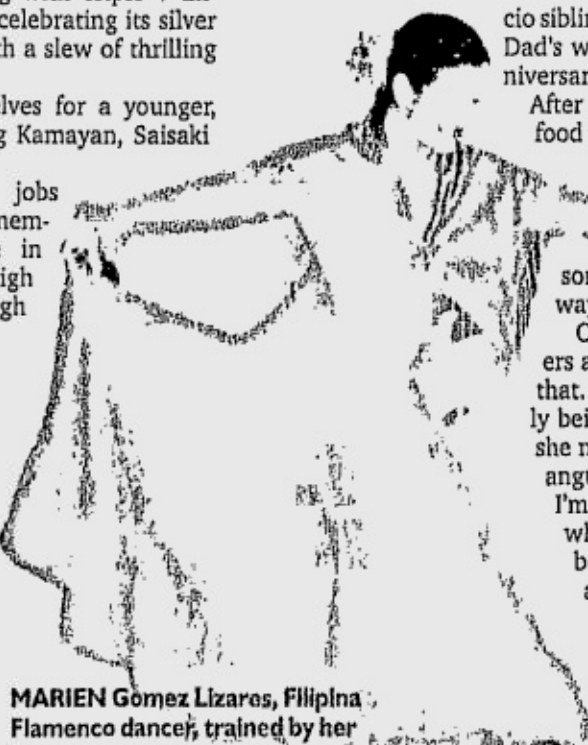
Creating tidal waves in the US is our very own, beautiful, talented Monique Lhuillier, who is one the most sought after young designers for bridal and evening couture in Beverly Hills and New York. And believe me, that's a tough pack to get into.

Only 30 years young, she was given by Saks 5th her own boutique in the store. Right now, Monique is busy preparing for her eye-popping Spring-Summer 2004 evening couture, to be held at the chi-chi Bryout pack in New York during the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week beginning Sept. 15, which just happens to be Monique's birthday. She'll be joining the league of hot, hot namedroppable labels like Carolina Herrera, Oscar dela Renta, Calvin Klein, Vera Wang, Myschika and the hot designer of the moment, Miguel Adrover.

Not bad for our gal from Cebu hitting the big time, *di bala?*

And finally, this shocking news that rocked the diplomatic set out of their socks and bras. It seems this super well-liked popular diplomat and his wife have split up, right when their tour of duty in the country was ending. The wife took off in a huff and returned to her native land, while the diplomat stayed behind with his liaison. What shocked cosmo Manila society was the fact that the diplomat was very discrete about his back-door romance till it was time to leave, and he decided to stay behind with his mistress. That blew the lid off the secret romance. Oh, yes! The other woman was always a guest in many diplomatic functions.

This prompted one witty diplomat to say, "Divorce and separations of couples have become so common these days. That's why my wife and I are staying married just to be different." Now, that's a real cool diplo.



MARIEN Gomez Lizares, Filipina Flamenco dancer, trained by her father, Señor Gomez, is one of the performers at the UP Abelardo Hall.

How to interpret dreams

(Conclusion)

THERE are many methods of dream interpretation. Each of these methods is useful. And because dreams are usually symbolic and multifaceted, they can be seen or interpreted in various levels or dimensions of meaning.

One interesting and relatively easy method of interpreting another person's dream, which I teach in my inner mind development seminar, goes like this: I ask a student participant to choose anybody in class as his or her partner. One of them will act or pretend he or she is an alien from outer space and the other as the dreamer.

The dreamer tells the alien his dream in as much detail as he can remember. The role of the alien is to try to make the dreamer explain to him all the elements of the dream in simple language because he does not understand anything. He is an alien from outer space.

If the dreamer, for example, tells the alien he is driving a car or talking on the phone in the dream, he asks the dreamer what a car or telephone is. This will force the dreamer to explain in clearer terms what he means by finding analogies, for example, that will make the alien understand what on earth he is talking about, because the alien presumably has never seen a car or telephone before.

The alien continues to ask the dreamer questions and relates all the elements of the dream to the dreamer's present life. For example, does the dreamer really drive a car, or does he have a telephone, etc.? What does a car or telephone mean to the dreamer?

The idea is to make the dreamer understand the symbolisms of his own dream by word association or analogy. It is not the alien interpreting his dream but the dreamer himself.

The most common mistake that people make in this method is the inability of the alien to keep to his or her role as an alien. Since the alien really knows the meaning of the objects (e.g. house, river, mall) the dreamer is talking about, he often instinctively interprets the dream his way.

This is wrong. He or she should stick to his or her role as an alien. Only at the end should he take off his

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



Because dreams are usually symbolic and multifaceted, they can convey various levels or dimensions of meaning

alien hat and interpret the dream together with the dreamer. The interpretation must be acceptable to the dreamer.

Then they exchange roles, the alien now becomes the dreamer and the dreamer the alien, and the same process is repeated.

What is good about this technique is that it is easy, interesting and effective. Often the students surprise themselves at their sudden ability to interpret another person's dream fairly and accurately.

Dream people

In Malaysia, there exists a primitive tribe called Senoi. They have been referred to by western researchers and psychologists as the "Dream People" of Malaysia. The reason is that this tribe's activities are based on the dreams of their people.

In that community, the first order of the day in each family is for the father to ask everybody in the household to relate his or her dream the previous evening. And there's no escaping this daily ritual, because every body is expected to have had a dream and to remember it.

The dream of each member of the family is interpreted by them, and

they choose one dream that the head of the family will bring to the tribal meeting. In that general meeting, every family representative will present the family's dream, and the tribal leader or maybe shaman will choose one dream that will be the whole tribe's task or project.

The Senoi tribe has very strict rules regarding dreams. If a member dreams of hurting a person, he is required by tribal law to ask forgiveness from that person during his waking state. If he dreams of an accident that will befall a person, he is required to warn that person when he wakes up. No one takes dreams for granted in this unique community.

The Senoi believes that each dream character is a symbol of one's self or an aspect of himself. This is very Jungian. That's why, when the Senoi find themselves in a loving or intimate interaction with another, especially of the opposite sex, they believe that it should lead to climax or orgasm.

This is not considered bad, abnormal or shameful, even if the person you are with in the dream is your sister or brother, mother or father, because to them, these characters are merely symbolic of yourself.

When a tribal member finds himself in conflict or in a fight with somebody in the dream, he should make sure he vanquishes the enemy or subdues him, but before he does so, he should ask him for a gift. It could be symbolic, like a flower, a poem or any other symbol. This evens out the fight psychologically.

In the Senoi, there is no crime of any kind. There is especially no sex crime, no theft or murder, no rape, sexual molestation, harassment or immorality of any kind. And psychologists attribute this lack of crime to their philosophy of dreams.

So next time you dream, remember the Senoi tribe of Malaysia and how they look at dreams.

Note: Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicaucó@ed-samail.com.ph. Visit my website at <http://jlicaucó.tripod.com>. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8pm.

Marathon bridges races and religions

SOME things cannot be given a definite color.

During the 3K fun run of the 27th National Milo Marathon held in Davao, two boys, white-skinned and blond, were in stark contrast to a crowd of native boys and girls at the starting line.

John and Neil Decleen, aged 11 and eight, respectively, were born to John Sr. and Lory, who were originally from Wisconsin, United States. They are as American as apple pie. John Sr. is a Baptist minister.

It was the boys' first time to join the event. They had two sisters registered in the 5K category—the eldest Lee, who was 16, and Claire, 13.

The family had been in Cagayan de Oro for 13 years. Lory, in fact, now understands the dialect and speaks it fluently.

The kids obviously enjoyed the race but were perhaps tired to oblige a short chat, but Lory was amiable enough to egg on her kids for a few lines.

Asked if she would run again next year, Lee said she was not sure if she would still be in the country then.

Claire, the second in the brood, was a tad

shy. Asked how long she trained for the run, "I really trained," she said.

The youngest among the Decleens was Neil, the one who had the deepest blue eyes.

When asked if there was anything weird that happened back in the track, "Well, I saw a few people fall at the start, but I just ran..."

Among the four Decleens it was John Jr. who came home with a medal and a certificate, which meant he was among the top 10 runners of his division.

John said he dreamed of becoming an athlete one day.

His mother noted that her kids had always been active in sports, playing tennis, basketball, baseball and now running.

"We allow them to get involved with sports and events like this, because it's good for their growth, their development as persons. And we would like them to enjoy and have fun like other kids do," Lory said.

To Filipinos and foreigners that day, the marathon proved that sports could be an important tool in bridging the gap between races and religions.

Drinking too much water dangerous for runners

From page C1

headache, normal exercise core temperature (generally not greater than 104 degrees F), and swelling of the hands and feet, which may be noted with tight wedding bands, watches and shoes.

To prevent hyponatremia, the USATF has released new fluid replacement guidelines, which can be found in greater detail at their website (www.usatf.org).

In a nutshell, the new guidelines say that "runners should be sensitive to the onset of thirst as the signal to drink, rather than staying ahead of thirst. By being guided by their thirst, runners prevent dehydration while also lowering the risk of hyponatremia, a potentially dangerous condition increasingly seen as runners have

been erroneously instructed to over-hydrate."

Since people have different sweating rates and fluid needs, runners can predetermine their individual pattern by following the step-by-step instructions of a self-test created by the USATF, which is also available at their website.

Basically, the test involves careful weighing before and after one hour of running at the intended intensity of the future race under similar environmental conditions.

The USATF says that "athletes who have not yet had the opportunity to perform self-testing should begin their races well-hydrated, indicated by clear urine, and then drink when thirsty during their races, rather than

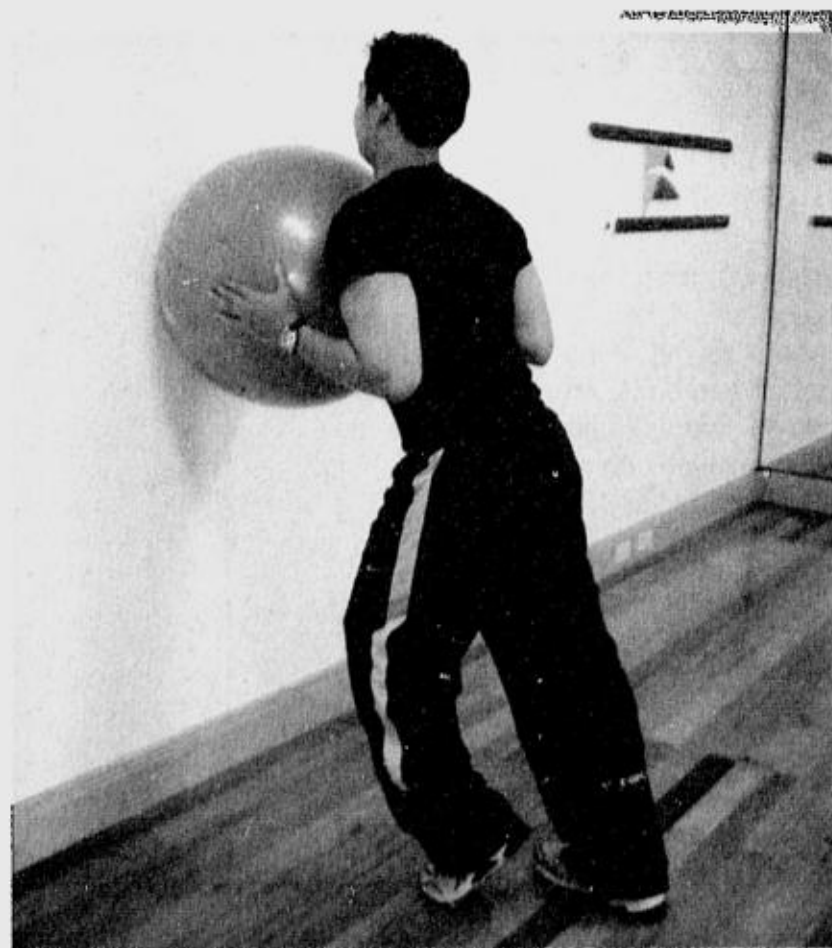
drinking constantly as some have recommended. A sports drink with sodium and other electrolytes is preferred."

Fitness forum

The Orthopedic Partners and Pfizer will hold their 2nd Forum on Sports and Fitness on Aug. 30, at Club Filipino 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Topics include Latest Exercise Fads, Myths about Children in Sports, Sports Readiness, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Strength Training and Plyometrics. The seminar includes snacks and free lunch, but there are a limited number of slots, so pre-register c/o the Pfizer Customer Service Department by calling 8643757. Look for Sahli Macalinao.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Wall calf stretch with ball



STRETCHES the calves.

Equipment:
A stability ball and a wall

Exercise technique:
1. Place your hands against the ball at chest level.
2. Walk your feet away until you are leaning into the ball at a slanted angle.
3. Press your right heel into the floor as you bend the other leg.
4. Hold for the desired length of time. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. You can do a two-leg modification by pressing down on both heels.
2. You can do a dynamic version by alternating from one leg to the other or lifting both heels up and down. Do 10-12 repetitions.
3. If you do the static version, hold the stretch for 10-30 seconds.

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Q and A on medication, moods, mastering the self and more

IT'S TIME to answer your queries on various health and beauty concerns. When needed, I confer with medical practitioners to shed more light on the subject.

Isn't phenylpropanolamine, a substance used in decongestants, toxic to the body?

According to Benjamin Campomanes Jr., an ENT (eye, nose, throat) specialist and a fellow of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology, St. Luke's Medical Center, most systemic decongestants are ephedrine-based, which is the base drug for metamphetamines.

Phenylpropanolamine, found in some leading cough and cold medication, is ephedrine-based. If used in large doses, it can cause appetite loss. That is why some people

tend to abuse the medication by using it for purposes other than it was intended for. Oral decongestants, on the other hand, contain chemical doses too small to adversely affect our health.

Does one's mood directly affect one's health?

Yes, definitely. The mind and body are one. Studies have shown that emotions cause neurochemical reactions. In short, what you think and how you feel create physical sensations. A hot-tempered person, when angry, experiences increased heart rate and blood pressure, stomach acidity, shortness of breath and weakness.

Sudden displays of extreme emotion can cause hypertension, stroke or even cardiac arrest. Thus, the popularity of the expression "Take it easy."

So, if you want to exercise better control over your health, learn to control your emotions. You can start with meditation, mind-body therapies like yoga and Pilates and regular spa visits. Regular prayer time also calms the spirit and improves one's outlook on life.

How can I maintain my youth?

If you are just in your 20s, start becoming conscious about holding on to your youthful looks now. The body begins to age in the late 20s, believe it or not.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



If there is such a thing as a wellness bible, one rule would stand out: love your soul as much as you love your body

Some of the factors that cause aging are over-exposure to the sun, a nutritionally deficient diet (high-fat, high-sugar, high-sodium), lack of exercise, smoking, alcohol or drug addiction, an angry disposition, depression, a negative attitude, etc.

In order to preserve your youth, eliminate the items on the checklist above. Those in their 40s and 50s need not worry; it's never too late to embark on a wellness lifestyle. The benefits derived from exercise and a healthy eating plan are felt almost immediately. So make today the first day of the rest of your healthy life.

When is the best time to have a facelift?
The best time to have a facelift, according to Dr. Florencio Q. Lucero, president of the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (tel. 7261111), is when you feel that you need it.

A good guideline, for example, is when you notice that your skin is sagging or has aged. The popular belief is to have a facelift when one is still young-looking, so other people will not notice the difference. This is a myth.

When your skin is still taut, there isn't much to pull, rendering the procedure useless and a waste of money. Normally, Caucasians need a "lift" in their 40s, and Asians in their 50s.

A full facelift consists of a fine cut after the hairline in the shape of a head band, ending at the back of the ears. The procedure can last five hours, and is good for 7-10 years.

Are there any natural and legal substitutes to steroids that I can take for body-building?

BCAAs or Branched Chain Amino Acids, which are composed of leucine, valine and isoleucine, are natural anabolic muscle-building supplements. While all other amino acids are broken down in the liver, BCAAs are oxidized in the peripheral muscle.

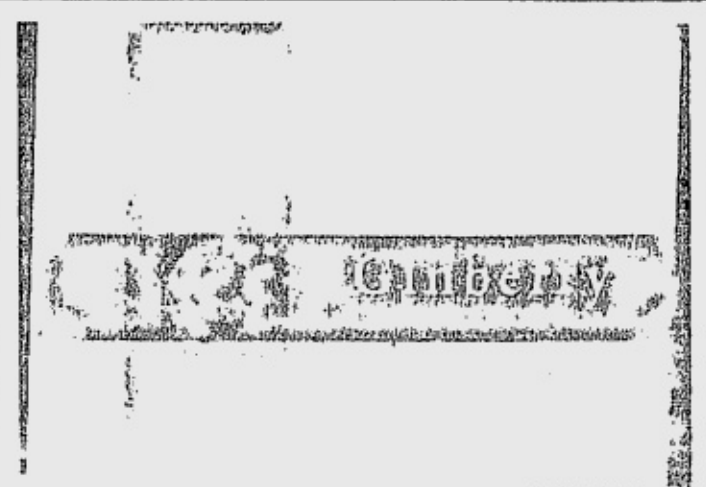
Strenuous exercises can cause the muscle to break down, but BCAAs not only prevent this, but can actually reverse the process. These anabolic (or muscle-building) supplements are normally taken a half-hour before exercise, and are available in health and vitamin stores.

Are there any vitamins designed to keep your hair healthy?

PH-balanced shampoos and conditioners are not enough. Nutrition also plays a key role. Is your diet rich in fish and soybeans? It should. Then add an all-natural, high-potency multi-vitamin or mineral supplement such as an anti-oxidant pill, B Complex (50mg), coenzyme Q-10 (60 mg), biotin and inositol (50-100mg to prevent hair loss), essential fatty acids at 1,000 mg, flaxseed or omega 3 fatty acid or beta-carotene 10,000 iu.

But if there is such a thing as a wellness bible, one rule would stand out: love your soul as much as you love your body. There is food for the body and food for the soul. So feed them both well.
Love and light!

Some facts sourced from "Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century" by Earl Mindell



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Empowering insights for preventing stroke, osteoporosis, allergies

THIS season, start off with a wealth of updates and information that will encourage you to go for the healthy habit.

The Healthy Options News Digest issue for August is a helpful read that individuals everywhere can derive great encouragement from, in terms of ways to treat and prevent body ailments and disorder the natural way.

The latest issue of the Healthy Options News Digest features articles and health/medical trends for readers of all ages.

The cover story of a young man checking himself out encourages readers to know more about "Preventing Stroke." Stroke is currently the third leading cause of disability and fifth leading cause of death in the United States. The new digest's center spread cover story of preventing stroke highlights the risk factors, effects of lifestyle changes like eliminating the high-risk habit of smoking, and the major role of exercise and diet.

Also in this issue is "Hair Loss Prevention and Treatment," which tackles causes and recommends diets. "Allergy Epidemic" and "Sul-

fite Allergies" discuss probable sources such as drugs we take and food we eat. Experts give recommendations on how to protect yourself and families from various allergies. As for sulfites allergies, the substances pose a greater risk to some people than to others. People with asthma, a history of allergies, or a deficiency of the liver enzyme sulfite oxidase can suffer great harm. Sulfites have been implicated in at least 13 deaths in the United States.

In "Osteoporosis and Teens," the need to strengthen bones at an early age with the help of nutrients and minerals is emphasized.

Not to be missed are engrossing articles such as "Sperm Warfare when your Potency is Under Attack," under Men's Health. It will be interesting to know that sperm is a rather good marker for health. The effects of stress, smoking and caffeine are likely to result in fewer sperms that don't perform very well. Under Vital Finds is "MDs Go Natural—Physicians Enhance Natural Remedies" that highlight alternative medicine. Last but not the least is kid's health, which is discussed in "Back to School Wellness."

Check out these valuable ideas and practical pieces of advice in Healthy Options News Digest, available at Healthy Options with stores located at level 1 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; level 2 of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor of SM City, North Edsa; level 2 of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; level 2 of SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga and SM Bicutan.



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LIFESTYLE

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Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IT was chance that introduced this young lad to the world of kings, queens and knights. Had his father, who was Leyte's *dama* champ, found active *dama* players when he moved to Manila, chess International Master (IM) Ronald Dableo would be playing checkers instead of pushing pawns today. But destiny, it seemed, had other plans for him.

"Kung para sa akin yan, darating din yan. Maghihintay ka nga lang. Pila ka muna [and] wait for your turn," says Dableo, who believes fate will also one day lead him to his lifelong dream of earning the grand master title. "Confident ako na mararating ko yun."

Dableo's career got a major boost when he bagged No. 1 in the Asian Chess Zonal in Ho Chi Minh (the former Saigon), Vietnam, July this year. From an obscure player, he zoomed to popularity seemingly overnight, dragging with

him to the limelight a sport that had sunk to near-insignificance locally.

Once again, destiny came searching for Dableo and made the Vietnam feat possible. Driven by his fervor for chess, he frantically scrounged around for sponsors for his Vietnam trip. But the hours hurriedly ticked away and Dableo had become broken and frustrated by his inability to raise funds. He had given up when, by a stroke of luck, a plane ticket was given

HAPPY/D3

New Pinoy chess International Master strongly believes providence is behind his success



RONALD Dableo brings to the limelight a game that has sunk to near-insignificance locally.

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A well-nourished child is ready to learn

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

PROPER nutrition is the key to a healthy citizenry. It is in this light that nutrition and health kiddie classes have been organized by the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines (NFP) in 11 communities in Quezon City, Tondo and Laguna. "mother coordinators" (MCs) conduct 22 classes in such areas.

"The project aims to promote nutrition and health among people and, ultimately, the welfare and economic life of the community. It can also help mothers prepare healthier food for their children," says Azucena Limbo, NFP executive director.

The nutrition and health kiddie classes were launched in 1996 in Barangay Santol, Quezon City. But according to Limbo, since the 1990s, short-term kiddie classes have been held within the community as part of practicum for senior nutrition students.

The curriculum on health and nutrition was pre-tested in 1995 for two months. After 56 sessions, NFP evaluated the effects.

"The children experienced increases in weight, especially the malnourished ones. The children then influenced their mothers to prepare more nourishing meals," Limbo says.

She came up with the idea for health and nutrition classes when she found out that the teacher of her son, John Michael, who's now 24 years old, was giving wrong information on nutrition to students. She tried to correct her son when they were discussing an assignment, but John Michael didn't believe his mother. So Limbo sent materials on nutrition to the teacher.

"That's when I realized that since children believe everything their teacher says, why not formalize kiddie classes? Besides, those in the age range of 4-6 years are most vulnerable to malnutrition. Ninety percent of brain development happens at this stage. Ten percent happens before reaching age 7," Limbo explains.

Teacher and planner

If children are to avoid the

An innovative program teaches families in depressed communities the importance of healthy eating

dangerous effects of bad eating habits and live longer, healthier lives, Limbo says their mothers need to teach them the value of healthy eating and expose them to wise food choices early on.

"And you need to practice what you preach," she adds.

Unfortunately, most of the mothers in poor communities are preoccupied with earning a living. Oftentimes, kids are left to an elder sister, grandmother or on their own. And they usually buy food in *carinderias*, where food is not properly handled.

So NFP recruited mothers in depressed communities and trained them on the methods of teaching, lesson planning and visual aid preparation. They were also given workshops on personality development, speech power and communication, and how to manage children's behavior.

"At first, some parents didn't want to enroll their kids in the kiddie classes despite the fact that these were offered for free. *Ano daw ang matututunan ng mga anak nila sa mga nanay na di nakatapos ng kurso?* They didn't know that the foundation trained these mothers," Limbo says.

Initially, nutritionists handled the classes with the volunteer moms assisting them. Lessons on the alphabet, shapes and sizes, numbers, personal hygiene and environmental sanitation were later added. Field trips to the market and bakery were also being conducted so kids would have an idea of the different food groups.

Every three months, MCs are asked to attend progress meetings. "We need to boost the morale of these mothers and aid them in their problems. Although we don't give them salaries, we bring them to different destinations whenever



ASIDE from healthand nutrition, Melanie Liwanag also teaches the alphabet to her class.

we have workshops, which serves as incentive," Limbo says.

Ma. Lourdes Reyes, 51, started as MC in Barangay Santol in 1996. She took up Bachelor of Science in Home Economics for two years. At 23, she got married and became a full-time mother of five. Reyes started as a community health volunteer trained by the Department of Health and NFP. The following year, she joined the Mothers' Class.

Reyes teaches every Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Friday mornings, she helps at the health clinic and supervises parents assigned to cook meals for school children.

"I've experienced a lot of changes, like in the way I talk, dress and handle children. Teaching is a test of patience. But I'm happy that when I tell them to behave, they listen to me. Most of our graduates



(from left) MELANIE Liwanag, mother coordinator in Barangay Doña Imelda, QC, and Georgina Aguillon, NFP's supervising nutritionist-dietician



AZUCENA Limbo, executive director, Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines

have carried in their hearts and minds what they learned in our kiddie classes," she says.

On the other hand, Melanie Liwanag, 37, a secretarial course graduate with a nine-year-old child, was forced out of her shell by nutritionist Gina Aguillon to attend an NFP seminar in 1999.

Liwanag teaches on Monday and Friday mornings. "I'm glad



MA. Lourdes Reyes, mother coordinator in Barangay Santol, QC

that the parents of my students like my method of teaching. So far, I haven't heard negative comments from them," she says.

Recently, she was offered a teaching job by the Department of Social Welfare and Development at its day care center, but Melanie declined the invitation despite the good salary.

Feeding program

NFP's feeding program demon-

strates how mothers can teach healthy eating habits to their kids. It's also an emergency measure to increase the weight of a child. Feeding takes place only if the mother agrees to contribute to the program, like preparing and cooking the right food.

When they do, they are required to follow the "Kitchen-Tested Recipes for Pre-Schoolers," which take into consideration the nutritional needs of children—from calories to vitamins and minerals.

"Nutrition starts in the womb and ends in the tomb. Ideally, the weight of a newly born child should be 3 kilos. His weight should be doubled by age six months," Limbo says.

Upon enrollment, each kid's profile is taken. During the school year, NFP teachers weigh each child and learn the kind of food he eats at home. At the end of the school year, the child is weighed again, then six months after graduation, he or she goes through the same process.

Both child and mother are also asked if what they learned in classes are practiced at home and in his new school.

"Overall, a well-nourished child is a ready-to-learn child," Limbo says. "Food nourishes at every age and stage in a child's life, and proper nutrition is crucial for social, emotional and psychological development. Teaching children how to eat healthy will enable them to establish a foundation of good nutrition and healthful lifestyle habits."

Call the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines at 7121474/7122005/7113980.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

ILLUSTRATION of basic food groups done by mother coordinators



3-day fair for PWDs held at the mall

PERSONS with Disability (PWDs) recently took center stage at SM Foundation's Jobs, Skills and Livelihood Fair at SM Megamall. Held in celebration of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week, the three-day fair was organized by SM Foundation in cooperation with Abilympics Phils. Inc., Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), Department of Labor and Employment, and National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled.

Rep. Richard Arsenio, Abilympics' Begonia Ortigas, Tesda directors Santiago Yabut and Cely Chavez, and DOLE's Ma. Theresa Soriano shared honors during the event's ribbon-cutting ceremony together with SM Foundation's Debbie Sy and Connie Angeles.

A computer skills competition was held for the visually impaired on the first day. With assistance from Adaptive Technology for the Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (Atriv), participants consisted of students from Trinity College, Philippine National High School for the Blind, Quirino High School, City College of



AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING ceremony: (from left) Tesda's deputy director general Santiago Yabut, SM Foundation's executive director Connie Angeles, Abilympics' Begonia Ortigas, SM Foundation's executive director Debbie Sy, Rep. Richard Arsenio and DOLE's Ma. Theresa Soriano

Manila and National Vocational Rehab Center. They utilized key trade areas like transcription from braille to electronic media, transcription from cassette tape to electronic media, Excel, Info Search through Internet, and Powerpoint presentation.

Overall winners in the senior division included Christopher Tumbokon, first place; Deteron Omas, second place; and Aileen Bables, third place. Rachelle Pilares topped the junior division, while Hanna Mae Aldeza and Carlo Flores placed second and third, respectively.

The second day included skill demonstrations by Philippine delegates to 6th International Abilympics. Scheduled this November in New Delhi, India, this is a competition among PWDs, which aims to discover talents, create awareness, promote international friendships and promote job opportunities.

Among the skills demonstrated by PWDs were creating www pages, painting, flower arrangement, wood carving, cake decoration, dressmaking, electronics assembly, poster designing, photography, jewelry making, and furni-

ture and cabinet making.

A livelihood exhibit highlighted the third day. Several groups showcased products made by PWDs: assorted linen products and towels by Learning Partners School; products and novelty items from Tahanang Walang Hagdan; rag dolls and kitchen towels from Tala Disabled Group; ceramics and paper tote items from Manila Silent Club. Other groups represented were the Palawan Association for the Deaf, with banana chips, cashew and peanuts and dried fish; Blind Union Region 4, with ornamental



SKILLS demonstrators for the Philippine delegates to the 6th International Abilympics



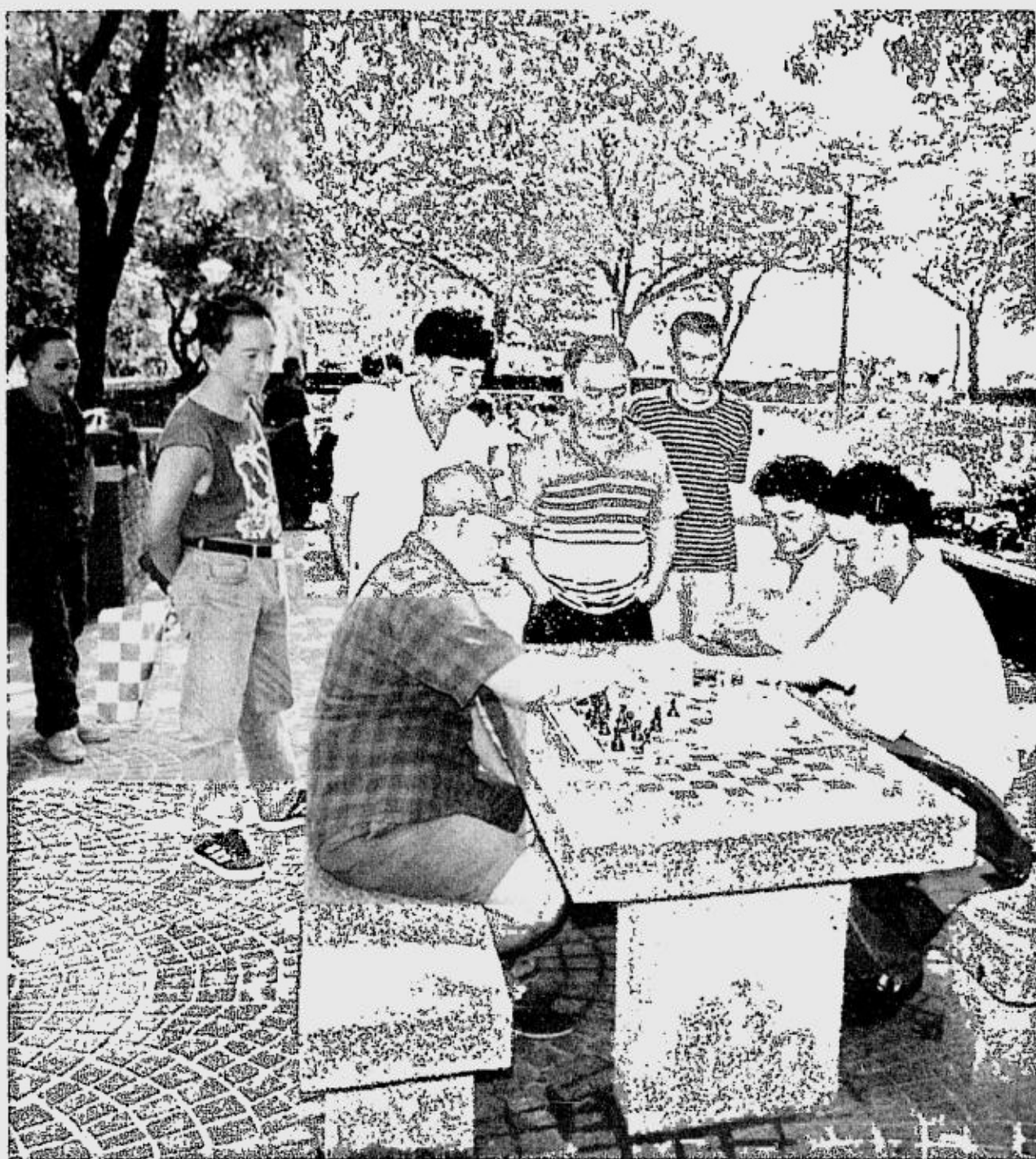
THE COMPUTER skills competition included, among others, Braille and electronic media transcriptions, and Internet searches.

plants, scented candles and soap; and the Kawit Association of the Deaf, with sign language T-shirts and banana/chocolate cakes.

As part of its commitment to help PWDs, SM Foundation will also be having Jobs, Skills and Livelihood Fairs for PWDs at SM City Iloilo on Aug. 29; SM City Davao, Sept. 26, and SM City Cagayan de Oro, Oct. 30.

Happy to be destiny's pawn

From page D1



DABLEO spent many long hours as a child learning the discipline of chess at Rizal Park Chess Plaza in Luneta.

to him at the last minute.

Dableo packed his bags and, fortunately, was able to share a room with GM candidate Mark Paragua, who also allowed him to use his laptop. It was the laptop, Dableo says, that prepared him for his matches and helped him secure the IM rank.

Not bad for a guy who also once borrowed Bobby Fischer's "Best 60 Games" from his father's kumapare when he was 10 years old so he could learn more about chess.

(Out of 128 players in the recent France International Chess Open Tournament, Dableo was in the Top 9. He would have campaigned further in Europe, where Paragua is continuing his matches, but he could only afford the trip to France.)

Providence

What others would see as coincidences become purposeful events to Dableo. The birth of his daughter Jaina early this year only reaffirmed his belief in providence. Since then, he says, his lowest achievement was second place in games. He became a member of the Philippine team and earned his IM title.

That is not to say Dableo hasn't earned his stripes the old-fashioned way. In fact, the 24-year-old has been training for the past 18 years of his life. He first learned the game from his father, who brought his son along when he played chess with neighbors or went to chess tournaments, even to *bangketas* at the Rizal Park Chess Plaza in Luneta.

In grade school, Dableo went straight to Luneta after school to play chess. He spent hours upon hours at the park, 1-7 p.m., every single day until everyone knew his name, and he started to beat and shame older players. "Meron ngang iba doon na yata natutulog. Pero 'pag mahal mo yung laro hindi ka napapagod," he says.

The father-and-son obsession with chess made his mother furious: "Wala na kayong ginagawa kung 'di maglaro," Dableo remembers his mom saying. He says she didn't understand why he spent so many hours on chess, and feared he was neglecting his academics. But at 13, a small article mentioning his name came out in the papers and, finally, his mother gave her wholehearted support.

Of course, there have been many moments of disappointment in Dableo's career, and one he is unlikely to forget happened when he was barely 12 years old. He was leading in the game—and by a large margin. His opponent had only a minute left on his clock, while Dableo had more than an hour to spare. "Natalo pa ako... Umiyak ako nang umiyak. Ang sakit," he recalls.

Runs in the family

Be determined, he says. Be patient when you pursue your dreams, and be prepared to invest time and effort: "Para kang nagtatanim nyan eh. Pag hindi mo inalagaan, hindi rin yan magkakabunga."

Dableo, the eldest in a brood of six, worked his way from high school to college on a chess scholarship. (He still has one more semester to go before receiving his Management degree from San Sebastian College.) He feels blessed to have chosen a career in sports. Chess gave him the scholarship that helped remove a financial burden on his parents, gave him a steady income, allowed him to travel abroad and be known in the local and international communities.

But the most important part is often overlooked. "Makakaiwas ka sa bisyo at barkada na masasama kasi mga kasama mo players din," he says. Dableo serves as a role model to his younger siblings who are now all pursuing their studies through chess scholarships. Save for his mother, Dableo's is a family of chess players, including his wife, Tara Jade.

Dableo first met his wife when he was 13 during the *Palarong Pambansa* in 1993, where she won the gold medal. He met her again in 1995, where she bagged another gold medal. "Hangang-hanga ako sa kanya," he says. (Tara Jade is a four-time *Palarong Pambansa* gold medalist.) When he was 21 years old, he encountered Tara Jade for the third time, and this time he did not let the opportunity pass.

For this young man who seems to be living a life shaped by providence, fate may just smile once again come the Southeast Asian Games in December.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Nothing like the original even in sportswear

ADIDAS, the world's top sporting brand, caused a quite a stir as it opened its first Southeast Asian Originals Store in Singapore.

The store is the sixth to open worldwide, after Tokyo, Berlin, New York and two other cities. It presents the Adidas Fall/Winter 2003 Originals collection over 145 square meters of the ground floor of Pacific Plaza. Long-time Originals favorites as well as reintroduced apparel and special limited products are expected to lure Singapore's modern consumer, as well as the rest of the region.

"The Adidas Originals Store Singapore offers a unique experience and great collections inspired by our rich sport heritage and competence," said G. Kannan, Managing Director, Adidas Singapore. "It breathes authenticity, activity and freedom."

The Originals collection, deriving inspiration from the large Adidas sports history, is part of Adidas' Sport Heritage Division and represents a perfect fusion of sport authenticity and global street style. The other two divisions making up Adidas' three-divi-

sional structure are Sport Performance and Sport Style. This structure is allowing Adidas to expand its customer base and to gain deeper market penetration in its existing markets.

Adidas Originals is a collection of some of the most innovative performance products that, over the last 80 years, have helped shape sport to what it is today. Each product was performance driven in its day and each one has its own story. These products, brought back in limited quantities, extend the unique and authentic heritage of Adidas to the lifestyle market. Originals products are either: "Reintroduced" or old favorites brought back in restricted numbers; "reinterpreted" or based on the original authentic sports product, but with updated colors, materials and details; and "redesigned" or inspired by Original Adidas products in style, experience and craftsmanship but updated for today. Originals products are represented by the trefoil logo, introduced in 1972.

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VINTAGE Adidas worn at the 1954 football world championships in Bern, Switzerland



Tom Wong, Adidas Phils. product assistant manager for Originals



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'Green' retailing is good for business, environment

By Linda B. Bolido

RETAIL establishments can make a significant contribution to environmental protection and conservation by promoting sustainable production and helping change consumption patterns.

Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere, the recently retired director of the United Nations Environment Program Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), underscored the great potential of the retail industry to advance the cause of sustainability. She said even the smallest and simplest of transactions like the sale of a T-shirt or a bag of coffee could have an impact on the environment.

The former UN official said such transactions could affect not only the health of the environment but also the well-being of people. "We do not ordinarily stop to consider the

multitude of environment and social effects that a single, seemingly simple transaction can have," de Lardere noted in the January-March 2003 issue of the DTIE publication "Industry and Development."

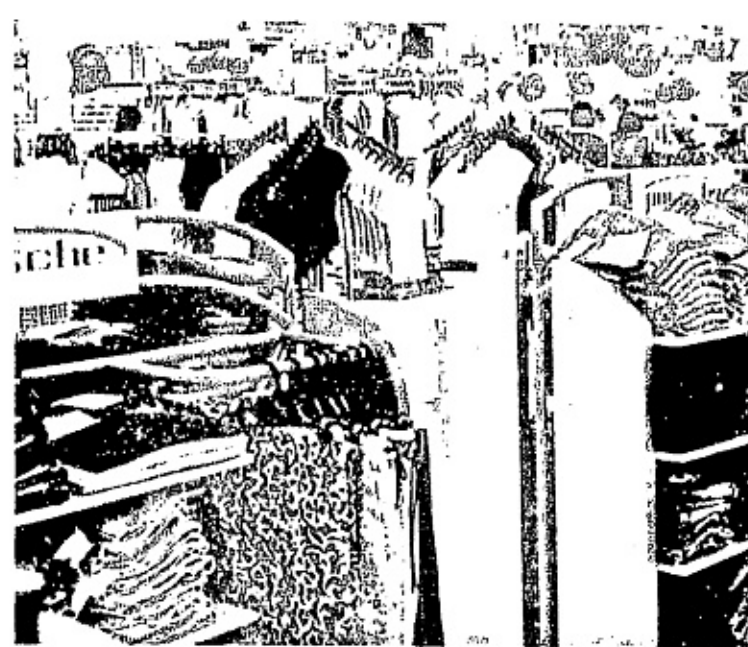
The huge industry is estimated to have sales amounting to roughly \$7 trillion annually, a little less than a fourth of the world's Gross Domestic Product of about \$30 trillion. Total amount of household consumption rose by 68 percent between 1980 and 1998, even though some 78 percent of the global population is classified as poor.

Keys to sustainability

De Lardere stressed the retail sector held many of the keys to encouraging sustainable consumption. Sustainable retailing required ensuring that internal operations were themselves environment-friendly and influencing suppliers to produce sustainably and customers to consume wisely. Some of the ways by which retail transactions could affect people and environment,

according to de Lardere, were:

- **Resource use**—This begins from the extraction or harvest of raw materials used in consumer products, which could threaten the sustainability of sources and resources.
- **Energy use**—The use of vehicles for delivery to and from the store, by the establishment's personnel, by people doing business with the retailer, the customers, as well as the energy used within the store, among others
- **Waste generation**—A long line extends from the farm where the raw material is grown, to the manufacturer producing the finished products, to the retailer ending with the consumer with several minor points in between
- **Negative land use effects**—These include damage to the landscape from megastores and the surface sealing they use for their huge parking lots
- **Poor labor standards and practices**—The problem could begin from the farms to the stores or further up, to the users of the products



RETAILERS can encourage suppliers to produce sustainably and customers to consume wisely.

- **Health effects on suppliers, store employees, consumers and their families**—Hazardous substances used in merchandise like arsenic in wood treatment and heavy metals in appliance manufacture can cause health problems

Influencing consumption

The good news is that many retail establishments abroad are beginning to realize they could influence consumption patterns to make them more healthful for people and environment. This increased corporate awareness by foreign companies of the need to protect the environment could have a positive effect on developing countries, including the Philippines, because as DTIE noted, "In much of the developing world, especially Asia and Latin America, the market is increasingly dominated by multinational retailers."

De Lardere said in recent years, many retailers had started to "green" their operations and to become important players in making consumption and production patterns more sustainable and environment-friendly.

"They are taking action: Developing logistical strategies for transport, making life-cycle assessments of packaging, adopting environmental management systems, marketing green products, ensuring that sustainability is taken into account in supply chain management, drawing up codes of conduct for suppliers, carrying out consumer and employee awareness—raising campaigns, demanding innovation in building design and energy systems," she pointed out.

In an informal meeting attended by some of the biggest names in the retail industry, participants outlined initiatives their companies had taken to advance the cause of sustainable consumption.

Xavier Durieu, secretary general of EuroCommerce, noted, "Awareness is growing among consumers, who increasingly express the need to better take into account the environment and ethical concerns." The role of the retailer was to serve as go-between, bringing the consumers' concerns to the producers and delivering the kind of goods and services the customers wanted, he said.

In addition, he said the retailer could educate customers, providing information and analysis to help them make wise choices. The establishment could even influence consumer decision by carrying only products that met ecological criteria.

Mike Barry, environmental systems manager of Marks and Spencer, said although consumers were beginning to favor sustainable shopping, they preferred to be spared sacrifices in terms of cost, quality, fashion and functionality. So the challenge for the retail industry, according to him, "predominantly concerns embedding sustainability within the production phase of our operations; in effect, consumers will be asked to make few, if any, sacrifices in their consumption patterns. We will do the hard work for them."

Kevin Bradley, director general of the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment, reported that the industry was already meeting or striving to effect sustainable use of natural resources through protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the harvest of raw materials, enhanced efficiency in the use of materials, effective use of energy, efficient transport systems, prevention of food waste and improved recycling and recovery of post-consumer materials.

Cost-effective

Companies are beginning to find that such efforts, far from resulting in additional expense as some might fear, actually pay off in employee loyalty, consumer patronage, reduced costs in terms of less energy consumption, fewer sick leaves, among others.

Kesko Corporation, Finland's wholesale and retail market leader, is among the retail companies that find it beneficial to be more environment-friendly. According to Jouko Kuisma, senior advisor, "Environmental measures have increased our profitability—not only by lowering our costs but also by encouraging systematic work and better quality in all our activities."

He said their reputation as an environment-friendly retailer improved their corporate image as a responsible company, indirectly leading to higher sales and greater investor confidence. Moreover, "our own employees are proud of the work and the results, which have positive effects on job satisfaction figures and on recruiting new people."

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com

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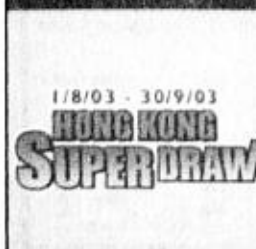
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